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July 5th, 1979 ★ Volume 14, Number 27 ★ *14th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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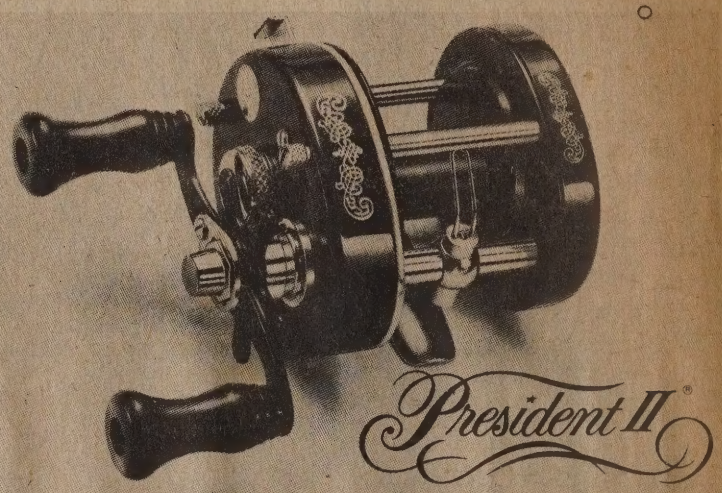

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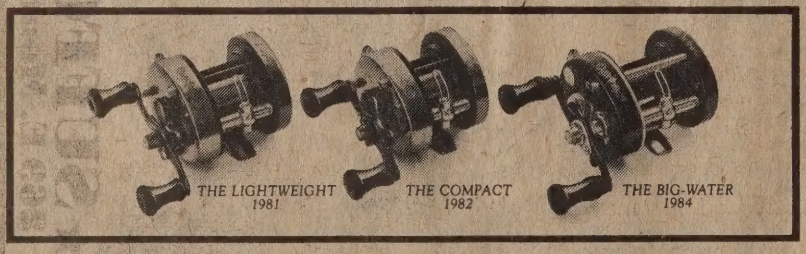

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Volume 14, Number 27 **July 5th, 1979**

Features:

NATIONAL SCENE ..... Al Ristori 14

Fish Talk:
A FAMILY SPORT ..... Dr. W. A. Muller 16

Old Timers' Corner:
TWO TALES OF YORE ..... Matt Ahern 18

SurfSide:
MONTAUK'S OTHER FACE ..... Vito Orlando 20

HOW TO FILLET A PORGY ..... Judy A. Morris 21

SPEED SQUIDDING BLUES ..... Richard Giessuebel 22

JULY TOURNAMENTS ..... Fred Guardineer 25

THE YEAR OF THE SWORDFISH ..... Al Ristori 26

WEST END STRIPERS ..... Ron Onorato 30

NIGHT BRIDGE WEAKFISHING ..... John V. Konior 32

Departments:

Editorial 4
Chum Lines 7
Contests & Tourneys 10
New Products 12
Pass It On 12
Fishing Reports 35
Classified Ads 60
Tide & Solunar Tables 63

COMING NEXT WEEK:

TERMINAL TACKLE

About the Cover—

Porgies are in good and make excellent eating if you know how to get around the bones. To find out how, see the article "How to Fillet A Porgy" by Judy Morris on page 21 of this issue.

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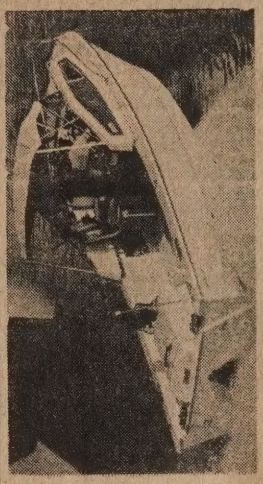

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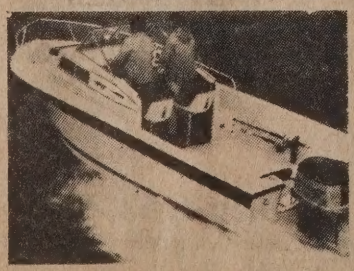

COMING SOON—
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The Fighting Chair

with Scott Simons

Where were New York's Reps on Tuna Vote?

Since the implementation of the 200-Mile Limit more than four years ago, **The Long Island Fisherman** has editorialized at great length for the absolute necessity of having a representative for New York's almost two-and-a-half million saltwater sportfishermen on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, which at the present time we don't have, and won't for the forseeable future. The price being paid for this lack of representation is just beginning to be felt by sportfishermen, and we're sorry to say that unless individual sportfishermen and fishing clubs sit down and write a few letters the situation is only going to get worse. The latest casualty may be the McCloskey bill now in the U.S. Senate that would remove the tuna from being exempt from the 200-Mile Limit because of the failure of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council to endorse it. (See last week's "National Scene", page 8.)

The present representatives on the Council from New York are: Tony Taormina, of the N.Y. Dept. of Environmental Conservation; Dr. John L. McHugh, a marine biologist; William Pell, a commercial fish packer; and Nancy Goell, origin unknown. Although it is an extremely well-documented fact that the bluefin tuna stocks are in deep trouble, and the tuna's exclusion from the jurisdiction of the 200-Mile Limit is a tremendous loophole that allows foreign nationals such as the Japanese to fish in our waters and slaughter over nine-thousand giant bluefin tuna (at a time that our own fishermen are limited by law to catching only 2,000) and are also slaughtering tens of thousands of billfish such as swordfish and marlin as an "incidental catch" to their longline fishery in the process, the New York representatives on the Council voted as follows on the motion to have the Council to protect the tuna: Tony Taormina voted yes; Dr. McHugh voted no, keeping in line with his past record of never voting for the interests of sportfishermen, or Americans in general for that matter; William Pell voted no, which is a surprise to us considering his past assurances that he was capable of voting for the interests of sportfishermen when the evidence warrants it; and Nancy Goell couldn't vote due to her failure to show up at the meeting, probably due to her other "more important" jobs.

We urge both indivduals and fishing club representatives to write letters to both Mr. Pell and Dr. McHugh protesting their vote against the tuna and the interests of both sport **and** commercial fishermen. Letters can be addressed to Dr. John L. McHugh, Professor of Marine Resources, Marine Sciences Research Center, State University of New York, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794, and William Pell, III, Pell's Fish Market, P.O. Box 341, Greenport, N.Y. 11944. It wouldn't hurt to also drop a line to Tony Taormina thanking him for his vote of support. Write to Tony Taormina, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Building 40 S.U.N.Y., Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794.

What's the story with Richard Miller?

Richard Miller is the Executive Secretary of the Long Island Fisherman's Association, which is the major organization on Long Island that represents commercial fishermen. When Fred Schwab was named as New York's representative to the State/Federal Striped Bass Management Program some time back, the commercial fishermen raised hell because of Fred's former association with S.O.S., which they consider to be their mortal enemy. They demanded that Schwab be replaced with Richard Miller, their paid lobbyist, and after applying considerable pressure on the D.E.C. and Gov. Carey, finally succeeded earlier this year in having Mr. Miller appointed to the S/F-SBMP as an at-large member. Since receiving this appointment that the commercial fishermen cried their hearts out for, Richie Miller has not attended a single meeting of either the S/F-SBMP or the Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee, nor has he even bothered to acknowledge receiving correspondence (much less answering it) from Michael Leverone, the Project Manager, Pat Carroll, Chairman of the

Advisory Committee, or Fred Schwab. So what was all the bull about the commercial guys needing their "own" representative, if he isn't going to do anything? Let's hope that the D.E.C. either makes Mr. Miller get off his duff or takes the appointment away from him—enough is enough.

F.D.A. Lowers Allowable PCB Levels in Fish

After several years of examining data that just wouldn't go away or at least change, the Food and Drug Administration is finally lowering the allowable level of PCB's in fish from the current five parts per million to two parts per million, effective August 28th. Studies have linked PCB's with reproductive problems and liver tumors in test animals, and the new ruling means that fish with more than two-parts per million of this toxic chemical will not be permitted to be sold in interstate commerce. Striped bass in the Hudson River have already been found to have PCB levels higher than this, but it is still questionable as to whether the bass outside of the Hudson River will meet the new requirements. We would hope that more bass from other areas of Long Island will be tested by the D.E.C., and will inform our readers as the information becomes available.

White Shark Sightings All Over

It seems that just about everyone that goes shark fishing these days is spotting a great white shark. Within a week after the one-year anniversary of Capt. John Sweetman's encounter with a 30 footer that made headlines all over the country, there have been several sightings of great whites over 20 feet which, if nothing less, serve to vindicate Sweetman's reputation. Last week Capt. Warren Hader of the Montauk charterboat **Devilfish** told us that he spotted a white that he estimated to be between 25 and 30 feet off Montauk, and within a few days after his sighting several giants were found feeding on a whale's carcass off Moriches Inlet. After many attempts, a white shark of 13 feet, 10-inches, estimated weight of 2,200 lbs., was harpooned. Congratulations are due the "anglers", but we think it's time to call a halt to this business of harpooning everything in sight. The great white shark is a miracle of evolution ahd is extremely rare, and who's to say that the next one harpooned won't be the last of these great dinosaurs? So let's hope that the next thing stuck into a great white is a tagging dart, and let's allow these magnificent beasts to have the same right to live as they had before the "Jaws" phenomenon.

One final footnote on the great white shark escapades with the whale carcass found floating off Moriches Inlet. According to a news story in Newsday, at the height of the excitement Carl Darenberg of the Montauk Marine Basin sent a couple of his boats to Moriches to tow the whale away "so that it wouldn't stink up the beaches." Knowing his flair for getting in on a good "publicity stunt" (as witnessed by the P.T. Barnum atmosphere he created last year during the Sweetman incident), we tend to disbelieve Mr. Darenberg's claim to being concerned with the bathing beaches some sixty miles away from his marina. Obviously the charterboat captains' out of Moriches Inlet didn't believe him either, because they cut the anchor rope that was being used to tow the whale carcass away and then set up a "fish watch" to guard the whale from any other missions of mercy that Darenberg may have had for it. Score one for the good guys.

L.I.F. World Series Fluke Inning

The Fifth Inning of L.I.F.'s **Sportfishing World Series** will be held this Saturday, July 7th. The target species for this inning is the fluke, with a six-pound minimum weight established for eligible fish. In order to participate you don't have to fill out any entry forms or pay any entry fee—all that is required is that you are a current subscriber of The Long Island Fisherman. On the date of each inning, just go after the "target" species and weigh-in the largest one you catch at one of the many L.I.F. Offical Weigh Stations located around Long Island. (See page 62 for listing.) The twenty-five largest fish weighed in on the date of the inning will earn points, and at the end of the nine innings the anglers with the five highest accumulated point totals will win the World Series and share in over $1,000 in cash prizes. Even if you don't win a cash prize you'll still receive an L.I.F. **Skillful Angling Award** and an embroidered patch.

Scott J. Simons

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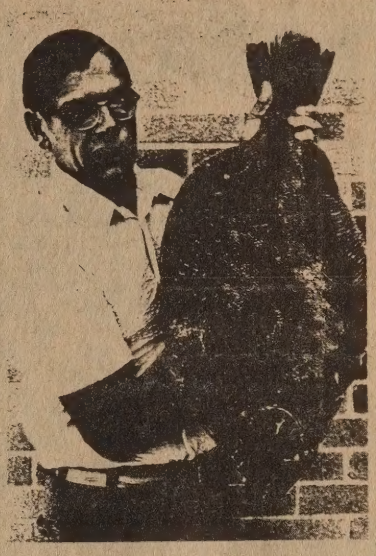

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LEPPER RESPONDS TO JOE GIALONZO LETTER

I am glad that you and your friends found my interview amusing. Most people found it interesting, informative and educating, but above all honest. To my knowledge your letter was the only derogatory one sent it. I guess it's just human nature to throw spears when your ego is bruised. Are you honestly trying to tell me that if the situation presented itself where you were able to make a big kill on bass, that you would only take one or two, tag the rest and go home????? Who's kidding who? I'm sure that you would catch as many as you could, show them off, then sell them—which I understand you do. (I would like you to publish a list of your tags that were put into bass.) From one fish seller to another (past tense), let's at least be honest. For your information, I stopped making big catches on bass more than eight years ago. I always try to get at least one big fish for every member of my charter (max. four people) or a fair catch of school fish. I saw the future of striped bass a long time ago and tried to do something about it, no matter how insignificant it may seem to you. If you read the interview in its entirety instead of picking out what you wanted to hear, you would have realized that I was putting down bait fishing, not bait fishermen; I put my regrets on no one. I have never claimed to know everything, nor will I ever know everything; but one thing is for sure and that is that bait fishing is the easiest way to catch big bass (breeding fish) aside from haul seining. This is not just my opinion but that of the some of the top charter and rod and reel commercial bass fishermen from New York and New Jersey (look what it did to Cuttyhunk). Ten years ago, I begged a very good friend of mine not to introduce bunker fishing as we knew it into Cuttyhunk or the Vineyard. He didn't heed my advice. That little act was the beginning of the end, as all of the charter boats saw him and they started the same thing—the rest is history. I never said that it took no skill to fish bait; I just said it took very little. I figured after catching many thousands of big fish over the past 30 years, I could speak with a little authority, especially since I've caught them every way that you can think of. To further your information, I've had kids under 10-years-old as part of a charter who never fished before, bait their own hook and land their own fish with less than ten minutes of instruction. The best bait fisherman I ever knew was my bow rod holder—it never made mistakes. I would bait up, let out about fifty feet of line and stick it in the rod holder. In one season, that bow rod holder accounted for two fish over 50 lbs., plus countless other big fish; it rarely missed a hit. I still have charters that have been with me for over ten years taking at least eight trips a season who still cannot let out wire, cast and work a surface plug, jig a bucktail, squid a jig or feel a fish playing with a trolled eel or skin, yet they all do a good job with bait. To clear up your very unnecessary remark, I neither own nor manufacture any lure on the market. I've designed and sold many over the years, but derive no benefits from any of them today. Lastly, due to your gross lack of knowledge on bunker spoon fishing, let me enlighten you to the fact that I never troll six spoons, nor did I ever troll six spoons. I have trolled five spoons while trying to locate fish, putting each spoon at a

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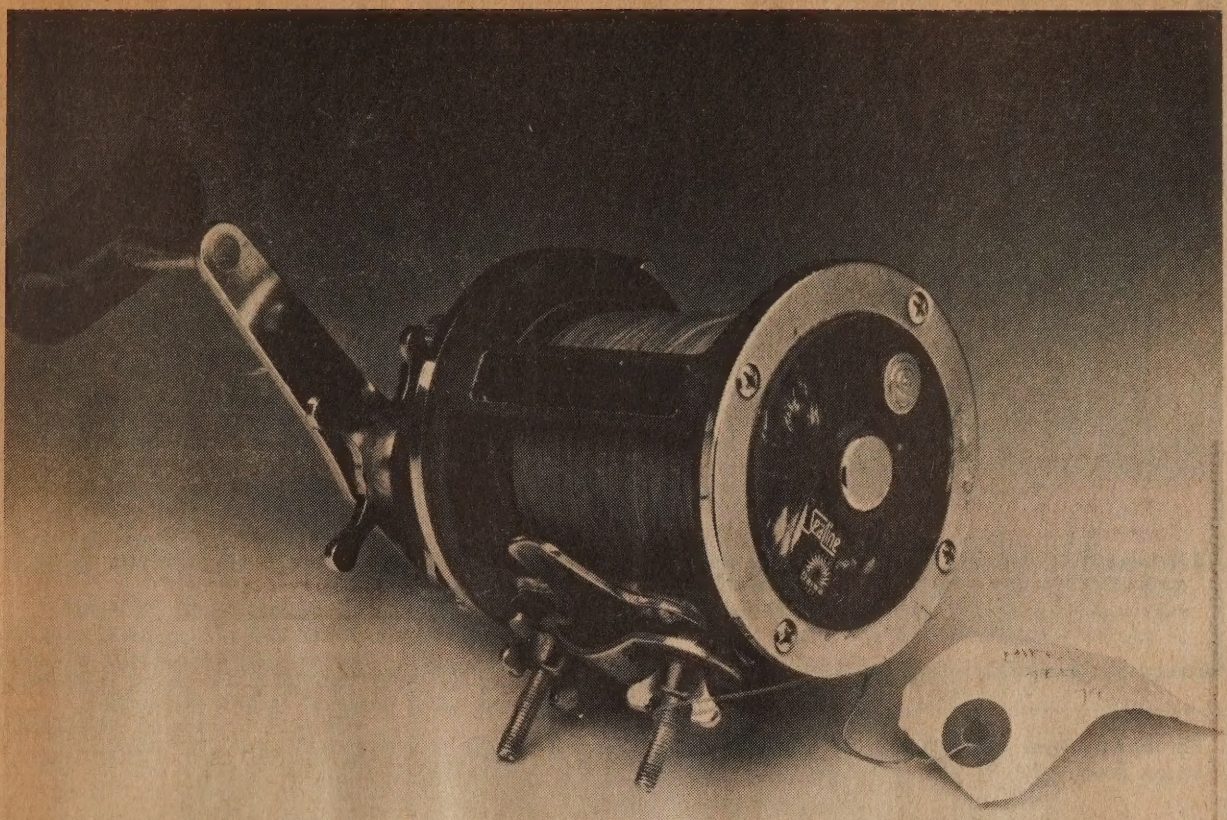
different depth. I then, after finding them, switch to three or four rods to fish with. Again, I state that I have never knocked bait fishermen or any other type of fishermen, as some of my best and respected friends are die-hard bait men. If further clarification is needed, please feel free to call or visit my home instead of going off half-cocked due to poor interpretation. **Capt. Ronnie Lepper.**

ECONOMICS OF SPORT VS. COMMERCIAL

We arenot just discussing a subject of fishing traps at North Bar, Montauk, but the objectives of three different types of commercial fishermen: the netters, trollers, trappers, etc.; the open and charter boat captains; fishing station operators. All have their economic interests at hand no matter how diverse at times it may be and at times conflicting. They make their incomes from sales of fish or services (i.e., boats, tackle, fishing space) in pursuit of fish.

Considering the per capita income of a Long Islander annually is approximately $4,000 to $8,000, we must necessarily look at the economics of commercial fishing (netters, etc.) as well as the "sport fishing" operated by boat captains and fishing station owners. One must understand that the commercial fishing is of slight importance to our local economy, more so than that of the entire United States Coast. No significant figures have been presented for our local areas—perhaps it has been 1/10 of the entire sales of the United States. Fishing is generated from our two major ports of Montauk and Greenport. The East End's economy is based on the transient population—who come to fish on charter and party boats, who, in turn, spend money on motels, restaurants, gasoline and various and sundry items. If due to the commercial fishermen's greed for the "buck" fish stocks are drastically depleted due to increasing pressure and new methods and construction of the same, the fishing "dies," we will no longer have a viable economy. As it is today, many charter boat captains supplement their income by commercial fishing during the winter due to increasing costs of mates, equipment and maintenance and fuel. This has detrimental effects upon our fish stocks as well and I cannot condone such action. In effect by doing this occasional fishing by party and charter boats, they are really giving their approval for the commercial fishermen to build fish traps and drag our bays with their nets. Thus I feel we must protect our own fish stocks from unnecessary pressure from commercial fishermen on the Island.

You state the Montauk Boatmen's Association approved building of the trap, but the Montauk Captains'



16,000 pounds of fish couldn't bust it. The Sealine 50H.

On November 1, 1978, a Daiwa Sealine 50H light duty reel was put to a heavy test aboard the commercial fishing skiff, "Suzy," out of San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico. For six months the reel was used for trolling-jig casting and yoyo bottom fishing in the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Baja California and the Mexican mainland. Bill Sorensen and Skipper Edwardo Monaga kept a fish count during the entire trip. Sorensen stated that the reel was given no maintenance except replacement of reel foot screws. (The foot-stand is now riveted to the frame.) On May 10, 1979, this Sealine reel was inspected by our engineers in Gardena, California. The reel still worked as well as the day it left the factory.

Normally, we would recommend one of our larger models, such as the 350H, for this kind of heavy duty deep sea fishing. Evidently, the 50H is a lot tougher than it's supposed to be. (See the 50H fishing log below.)

SPECIES	NUMBER CAUGHT	AVERAGE WEIGHT LBS
Yellowtail	95	25
Amberjack	107	25
Dorado	33	12
Shark	20	75
Pompano	164	12
Tuna	154	10
Cabrillo	215	5
Pargo	17	20
Wahoo	22	30
Cravelle	102	15
Bonito	83	10
Banrillita	222	1
Sierra	170	2
Skipjack	87	8
TOTAL	1,491 Fish	16,147 Pounds

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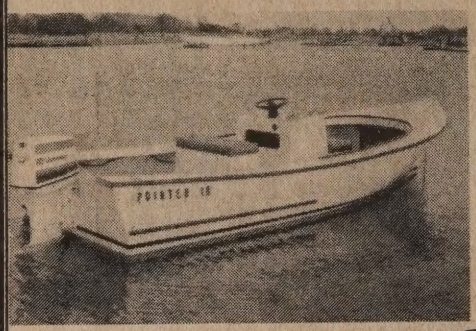

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Association does not—why not. Why? Why not approach all parties involved and print a list of names: pros and cons.

Your readers may identify these captains who are interested in preservation of our fish stocks for the future of Long Island and those captains who are basically dollar oriented—live for today, what tomorrow brings, it shall bring.

We should not just request, but demand, that due consideration be given and justified by actions taken in the past for conservation as well as their future plans.

One last point, since apparently you feel that it was just the President of Montauk Boatmen's Association who supported the trap, not all the members, why not have a delegation elected to attend meetings which will better represent the true beliefs and philosophy of the members of the Montauk Boatmen's Association. **Peter L. Wilk, Queens.**

DIDN'T LIKE MUNDUS

The article by Mundus in your last issue was quite unnerving. He ends by saying, "Fair play and he hopes we have the chance he did."

His wanton killing of defenseless, harmless, docile creatures like the basking shark show him for what he is: mentally deranged. His description of the carnage that went on that night was equal to an article in a pulp magazine and I don't consider it good editorial stuff on your part. Many of your articles are informative, educational and exciting to read, but this article by Mundus is pure battlefield gore and **please** let's keep this destroyer of sharks from having a forum in our wonderful L.I.F. How can he even hope for us to have a chance like his if he destroys more than he lets free. **Maurice Mahler, Baldwin, N.Y.**

Contests & Tournaments

BAY SHORE MAKO TOURNEY RESULTS

Mako tournament results: 150 boats entered; 145 sailed Saturday; 107 sailed Sunday.

41 makos; 44 blue sharks; 262 others, some tagged and released. Some just released.

Club Points: Babylon Tuna - 1767; Oakdale Sportsmen - 1514; South Shore Marlin & Tuna - 1085.

Mako Division: John Voltz, 352 lbs.; boat "Turtle"; Michael Maier, 322 lbs.; boat "Shotsie"; John Deak, 313 lbs.; boat "Cannonball."

Others Division: N. Zenke, 221 lb. blue shark; boat "Pap Z"; T. Hudson, 218 lb. blue shark; boat "Pompano"; B. Frankenburg, 167 lb. blue shark; boat "Bronco."

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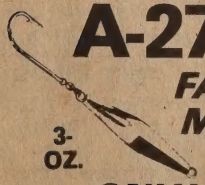

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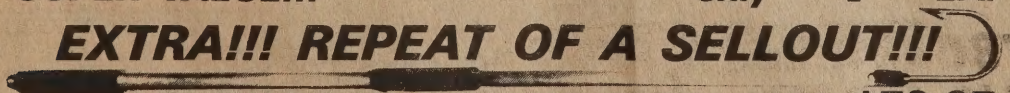

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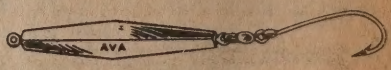

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A new 12-page booklet, "How to Use Your Marine Radiotelephone," that clearly explains emergency ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore radio procedures is now available to boat owners free of charge on request for single copies from Griffith Marine Navigation, Inc., marine electronics

communication and navigation specialist of New Rochelle, NY.

In simple, concise form it outlines proper radio operating procedures for distress ("Mayday") calls with examples of accepted practices, proper acknowledgement of such calls, and how to offer assistance to a boat in distress.

The booklet lists the accepted phonetic spelling alphabet; i.e., Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, etc., for A, B, C, and so forth—to be used in announcing call letters and spelling out words over the air to avoid confusion and mistakes.

There is also a tear-out Distress Communication form to be filled out by the boat owner with details on his boat—name, size, type, color, registration numbers, and other identifying elements—and posted adjacent to the boat's radio for guidance to anyone aboard who must make emergency calls.

Single copies of the booklet may be obtained free of charge by writing: Emergency Radio Procedures Booklet, Griffith Marine Navigation, Inc., 134 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801.

SQUID FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE PROVISION

The Fishery Management Plan for squid caught off the east coast of the U.S. has been approved, with the exception of one provision, Terry L. Leitzell, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has announced.

Proposed regulations, based on the plan developed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, establish an annual quota of 10,000 metric tons of short-finned squid for domestic fishermen and 20,000 metric tons for foreign fishermen. In addition, U.S. fishermen may catch 14,000 mt of long-finned squid, and foreign fishermen may catch 30,000 mt of long-finned squid.

The other major provisions of the proposed regulations establish a fishing year from April 1 through March 31 and require that all domestic fishermen, except those using private recreational boats, obtain a permit and submit logbook reports on their catch to the Regional Director, Gloucester, Mass., following each fishing trip.

The disapproved provision of the plan would have banned fishing for squid within two areas in the Mid-Atlantic Bight, because the areas are used as dump sites for municipal sewage and industrial waste. The plan, however, did not contain sufficient information to justify closure of the two areas to squid fishing.

Comments on the proposed regulations should be made to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, Washington, DC, 20235, by August 15, 1979.

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The *"L.I.F. DISCOUNT COUPON"* printed below is a weekly feature of The Long Island Fisherman that we hope will help our regular subscribers to fight inflation. The coupons will offer discounts on tackle, bait, marine electronics, boat rentals, fares on open boats and charter boats, etc. To use the coupon, just cut it out and bring it with you to the establishment offering the discount along with a recent copy of The Long Island Fisherman with the mailing label affixed to the front cover to prove that you are a current subscriber. If you are not a subscriber at the present time and wish to become one, just fill out the subscription blank that appears in this issue—which also entitles you to 100-yards of *Stren Line* as a free premium. Advertisers wishing to join the discount coupon program should contact Stu Miller at (516) 868-2391 *today!*

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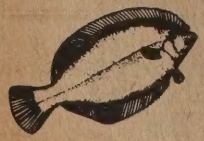

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Lenient Courts Impede Effective Fisheries Law Enforcement

Last week, I wrote about my disappointment with the lack of action by the Mid-Atlantic Council on the tuna issue at the June meeting in Philadelphia. However, that wasn't the only discouraging news from that meeting. A discussion of law enforcement in the fisheries brought out the fact there is practically none. That isn't the fault of the National Marine Fisheries Service agents, but rather of the courts which have been reluctant to impose significant penalties.

According to Dan Russ, Chief of NMFS enforcement activities in the northeast, well over $1,000,000 in fines have been assessed, but little more than $16,000 collected. Over 300 cases are still pending, some from April, 1977. One of the biggest cases in recent history was broken on Long Island by NMFS and State enforcement officials. It involved the shipment of seed clams, and some from polluted waters, to Pennsylvania. During the period this occurred, Russ estimated the volume at $11,000,000—and the profits as enormous. Yet, many of the lesser culprits weren't even prosecuted, and most got off with $500 fines. Only the top few individuals were hit with fines of $10,000 and $15,000 by Federal Judge Pratt. Of course, the defendants were able to laugh their way to the bank—proving once again that crime does pay when the courts are reluctant to punish the guilty.

Another blatant example of lawbreaking occurred in the surf clam fishery. The honest fishermen in that industry have been complaining ever since the management plan went into effect that others have been defying the law. Generally, it's been a question of fishing too many hours; and the regulations are set-up in such a manner that it's very difficult to build a good case on such a violation without having more proof than it's possible to obtain under normal conditions. However, one "open and shut" case was finally prosecuted. It seems that one captain was so contemptuous of the law that he simply sailed on any day he pleased. Surf clam regulations generally permit the boats to select one twenty-four hour (or two twelve-hour) fishing period per week. It wasn't very difficult to gather evidence of such wrongdoing, and the captain pleaded guilty. Yet, the Federal Judge let him off with two years' probation—and no fine whatsoever! Not only did crime pay for this individual, but it's going to be even harder now to convince the honest captains not to go over the line. After all, if a case such as this one is settled so easily, what sort of penalty can be applied to the clammer who works a couple of extra hours—and in doing so, increases his income by many thousands of dollars over the year?

For some reason, many judges seem to think that fisheries violations are not really serious crimes. At first glance, there may seem to be some justification for that argument. The violator is simply killing too many fish—not harming other human beings. However, his actions encourage others to go over the line in self-defense—and render ineffective any conservation regime based on an assumption that the rules will be observed. The net result of the "hand slapping" penalties given to fishery violators has been a general breakdown in compliance with the regulations in many fisheries. The Coast Guard mentioned, for instance, that American commercial fishermen in New England are making a joke of the closed spawning areas for haddock. So contemptuous of the law are some of these fishermen that they're not even sneaking in at night—they're fishing there in broad daylight! Even if cited, their fines will surely be far less than the profits to be made by depleting the resource that all the boats will be dependent upon in years to come. Unless the courts and Federal prosecutors get serious about this situation, there isn't much point in the efforts of NMFS and the Councils to set up conservation plans that will fairly distribute the common resource and lead to increasing abundance for all.

Council Management Plans Delayed

Mid-Atlantic Council efforts to get management plans in place for the current fishing season on mackerel, squid and butterfish were frustrated by a very long review process conducted by the Secretary of Commerce. According to the law the Secretary "shall" complete this review within sixty days—either implementing the plan or returning it to the Council for specific reasons. In the case of these plans, the Council heard nothing within sixty days—or for quite awhile after that period had expired. Now, several months later, the plans have come back for revisions and updating that are relatively minor in nature—and not even controversial. However, this year will be lost in terms of reporting requirements, an essential factor in preparing future versions of these plans. In view of the fact that the NMFS northeast director sits in on all the Council meetings and has a great deal to do with the preparation of the plans, it's surprising that the review process should take so long.

It's quite possible that the long delay in the case of these three plans may be due to the relative newness of the entire business of FMP (fishery management plan) preparation and review. However, at the last Council meeting, Bob Hanks, Acting Director of the Northeast Region, noted that it might happen again. Frankly, I'm not at all satisfied that the law can be ignored so casually. According to my dictionary, "shall" is the equivalent of "must" in a law; and I don't see why this shouldn't be less binding on the bureaucracy than it is on the individual citizen. Perhaps there is a need for a longer review period. If so, a change in the law should be proposed to Congress.

In order to avoid future problems of this sort, I proposed a Council recommendation to the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Comittee Oversight Hearings that the law be changed to require the Secretary to either accept or reject the plans within sixty days, or have them go into effect automatically after that period. This would prevent a pocket veto, and would establish a legal relationship between the Department and the Councils which would be the equivalent of that between the President and the Congress, or the various governors and their legislatures. In other words, the executive would not be able to frustrate the will of the more representative body simply by refusing to act on legislation.

My proposal was defeated, but I fear that the lack of such an amendment could cause problems in the future. At present, the Department is generally supportive of the Councils and this delay in reviewing plans may be chalked up to the usual problems in working with new programs. However, the lack of Council reaction sets a precedent which could come back to haunt us should a future Secretary decide to ignore the intent of Congress and downgrade the Councils to no more than advisory bodies.

Beyond that very significant factor, there is one other that should be considered in this matter: the very lengthy period involved in preparing a management plan. Due to all the technical requirements in

(Continued on page 53.)

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L.I.F.

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

A FAMILY SPORT

FISHING IS MORE THAN A SPORT FOR PROS. WE have talked about introducing children to fishing and I remembered a letter from Bob Menke of Port Jefferson that we received a few months back and put aside for the right time. Bob pointed out that L.I.F. offers much information about fishing that is helpful to him, but suggested that we spend just a little bit too much time looking at the sport from the pro's point of view. "There are lots of families that enjoy fishing together and really don't care how big the fish are that they catch, or even how many they catch. These folks aren't big game hunting—they're relaxing. Now, I have found that there are many families that would like to begin fishing but they have trouble starting out: where to buy basic equipment, when to go, and where to go. Again, they just want to have some fun, so keep that in mind should you make any recommendations."

SPENDING TIME IN THE OUTDOORS is relaxing and enjoyable and you're right when you say that you don't have to catch every fish in the sea to enjoy fishing. Okay, where to begin. The family that wants to start fishing might want to begin with easily accessible species such as flounder, fluke, and snappers. It is important to remember that you can catch all three of these species without a boat. On the other hand, if the family owns a boat there are many quiet places to fish and enjoy the outdoors. Let's begin with the land-bound family. A good place to begin is the fishing piers Jones Beach (across from Field 5) and Robert Moses Park (east of the Superintendent's house), and Captree. The Jones Beach piers boast flounder in the spring and fall and some fluke in the summer. There may even be an occasional raid of weakfish or blues, but these events aren't nearly so common. At Robert Moses, there are fluke to be had and sometimes they can be plentiful, but you can almost always catch one or two. The same is true at Captree. Sometimes the party boats fish only a few hundred yards from the dock.

WHICH BRINGS US TO ANOTHER WAY FOR THE FAMILY TO FISH. Not all party boats cater to the foul-mouthed, dirty professional fisherman. Actually, of course, that image was always an exaggeration. However, a family with young children might find the clientele on some party boats a little rough on the edges. However, there are a number of party boats in the New York Metropolitan Area that cater to a family trade. This is especially true at Captree and Freeport where there are a number of boats that advertise specifically for the family patrons. These boats always stay in the sheltered waters of the Great South Bay, run short trips, and are especially helpful to beginners. There are other family type party boats in our area and you can discover which they are by checking the advertisements in The Long Island Fisherman. Jot down the number and call them up. They will be very pleased to answer any questions and tell you what clothing and equipment they recommend for that particular time of year. Your planning and their thoughtfulness will surely make the trip enjoyable and memorable for the whole family. Incidentally, for you folks on the North Shore, there are family type party boats that sail from Huntington and Port Jeff as well as elsewhere. Check the ads.

SMALL BOATS. Family boating is getting more and more popular each year and there are many family activities that can be shared, such as swimming, picnicking, shell hunting, clamming, etc. However, many families are reticent about trying their hand at fishing. In some cases, they try once or twice, they catch nothing and then become too frustrated to continue spending money for bait and tackle. Unfortunately, this happens too often. How can you avoid this problem? To begin with, forget about the glamour species. They are the hardest to catch and the sport requires tremendous patience—something children are traditionally short on. Stick with the simple species because the tackle you'll need will be relatively inexpensive, you can fish in quiet sheltered waters where no one will get seasick, you can spend as little or as much time as you'd like, and the chances are that if you follow a few basic guidelines you'll catch plenty of fish, too. Incidentally, since the less glamorous species such as fluke and flounder are so good to eat, you can put some fresh and wholesome protein on the table at the same time. I think you'll find that one, most kids do not like fish, and two, most kids will quickly learn to like **FRESH** fish cooked properly.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES? Whether you fish from land or on the sea, you and your family will have more fun if you follow these few suggestions. Read The Fisherman every week. That isn't as self-serving as you may think. Sure, we like to sell as many issues as possible, but the new fishing family will be able to gather important information about when the fish are running, where the fish are running, and what they're hitting—be it lure or bait. If you don't know to do otherwise and you fish for flounder in August, your trip will likely be a bad one. Likewise, fluke fishing in April may be less than productive. Frequently fish will cluster in a certain portion of the Bay and by reading the weekly fishing reports, a family can anticipate exactly where to go and not miss the action by a half-mile. You know, children get excited when they see that they are fishing nearby to others. They begin to believe in their abilities to catch fish and then there is the comfort of the presence of other humans: it's only as adults that we begin to appreciate peace and solitude! Second suggestion. Don't go out when the weather is bad! Heat and cold aren't nearly as important as WIND. Wind can, and will wipe you out. In a strong wind it may be difficult to cast, anchor, chum, navigate, stay warm, stay dry, drift correctly, etc., etc., etc. If it's cold, you can add more layers of clothing and if it's hot, you can always take a quick dip, but no one has learned how to stop the wind. Third, you don't need hundred dollar rods and two hundred dollar reels to catch fish. When you're starting out you don't know whether or not you'll like it, so hold off investing until you are sure. You can easily buy a rod and reel that will be serviceable for fluke and flounder for less than $20. Of course, less expensive equipment must be replaced more frequently and perhaps when you do replace that first rod and reel you might want to go up a notch or two in quality. Check with your local bait and tackle dealer or sporting goods store for guidance and assistance. Most stores will fill up your reel with line for free in the bargain! A family of four can be ready to go fishing for less than $100 and if snappers are the quarry, the cost drops to about $25. Fishing doesn't have to be expensive. Yes, it does get expensive when you become an addict—if you become an addict. Fourth, bring liquids, sunscreens, hats, long sleeve shirts, bathing suits, and if you're on a boat of your own, bring a portable toilet. Fishing with the family calls for providing more of life's amenities than does fishing with your buddy Clem. Why liquids? In the hot sun and wind (gentle) people begin to dry out and if you lose too much water, you become ill and go into shock. The same for sunscreens and clothing which may be required to prevent

sunstroke, heat stroke, and excessive sun burn.

FISH IN SHORT SPURTS! Many people, especially children, get more enjoyment out of fishing when they fish for an hour or two rather than all day. Try to plan your trips, with the help of L.I.F., to coincide with the time of day when the fish are feeding best. This usually correlates to tides which progress daily. So, if you read in the fishing reports that the fish hit between eight and eleven on Sunday morning (reports gathered on Monday) and you plan your trip on Saturday, add about an hour for each day. Therefore, I would start out at perhaps one, and fish until four in the afternoon.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU BUY YOUR BAIT? Buying bait, especially at a family-owned and operated bait and tackle store is more than just paying for bait! It's an experience, so take the family inside with you. Those stores have an atmosphere that is unique to the business of fishing. Old ropes dangle from the ceiling, fish nets stretch from wall to wall, tackle abounds to interest almost any angler's eye, and the smells of clams, worms, crabs, and squid drift across the room. A typical exchange might be, "Are they still catching flounder in the lighthouse hole?" "Sure, and the fish are good-sized, too," says the store owner. "What tide are they biting best?" "They should be getting hungry soon because yesterday they bit well all afternoon." "What bait would you recommend?" "Try some worms and I'll give you some ground-up clams for chum. You have to chum heavily."

WATCH OUT! When children are fishing, be very careful about hooks. Take the time to teach them how to handle the equipment. Carry a sportsman's pliers with you and a first aid kit. If somebody should stab themselves deeply with a hook, push the hook through, cut off the point and barb with the pliers, and pull the hook back through the skin. It will hurt—but only for a little while! Clean and bandage the wound. Have fun and go fishing!

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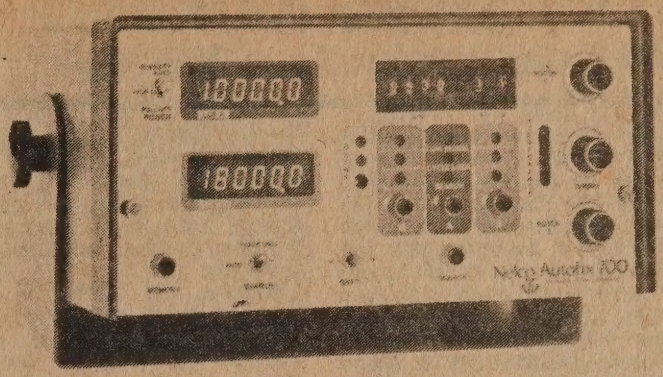

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OLD TIMERS' CORNER

"The way it was..." with Matt Ahern

TWO TALES OF YORE

Because of this column, I receive lots of mail from readers. This, of course, is all to the good, for I certainly enjoy the correspondence. As one would expect, most of this mail comes from old-time fishermen. There is, however, an increasing amount from fishermen in their teens who are glad to know how it was in days long gone. Almost without exception, these eager fishermen ask me to relate some of the odd happenings that occurred in the early days of my fishing career.

These requests can be a pretty tough assignment at times. I never really know whether to reply with a humorous story or one in a more serious vein. But coinciding with the tone of each request, I oblige as best I can, for it isn't difficult for old-timers to spin yarns on end with little danger of repeating themselves. So numerous are these requests, I thought that this particular subject would make good material for a column.

So let's start off by asking if you'd care to know how two inexperienced kids caught stripers from the beach on their first attempt at surf fishing? How two kids who had never even seen a striper in their lives succeeded in this most difficult of fishing feats? If so, read on.

I suppose I should tell you right now that this whole business was a stroke of luck, for I must admit we kids didn't know what we were doing. Which is also to the good, for it helps put to rest the idea that beginners have little chance for success in the fishing game.

The tale begins one Sunday morning in late September, 1928 when I joined my buddy Sal Amato, his father, and Sal's Uncle Patsy on a trip for blackfish and sea bass off the jetties around Beach 18th Street, Far Rockaway. Sal and I started out with high hopes and great expectations, which soon fizzled. Our fishing results left much to be desired. Although we both tried hard enough, we just couldn't connect.

The fact that Mr. Amato and Uncle Patsy were doing fair to middling didn't set too well with us; so from sheer boredom, Sal and I decided to leave the fishing to fishermen who knew what they were doing and take a hike along the beach. Maybe if we were lucky, we might find some place where a kid's unlimited thirst for soda pop might be slaked.

As we strolled along the water's edge, indulging in horseplay by tossing surf-broken skimmers at each other, we spotted a lone beach fisherman in the distance. While we may have been disappointed with our own fishing, it didn't lessen our interest in other fishermen; so we quickened our pace and soon arrived at the scene of activity—and what activity there must have been! To this day, I regret that I wasn't there to witness it.

Behind this fisherman, out of reach of the surging tide-wash, lay an orange crate. Under this lay three weakfish so huge that each fish's head and tail protruded at least eight inches beyond the crate's ends. Now, this was one of those old-fashioned wood orange crates no longer in use today. It was thirty to thirty-four inches in length, making those weakfish well over three-and-a-half feet long no matter which dimension you used. How much they weighed, I wouldn't even attempt to estimate.

All Sal and I could do was stare. That that fisherman was tops in our book goes without saying. Our gaze shifted continuously between the fish and the fisherman. Which held us more spellbound, I couldn't say. Little did we know at the time that we were in the presence of a master fisherman—the first of similar gender I would meet by the score in later life. But we did realize that to catch fish from the surf was a feat, indeed desirous of profound acclamation.

It seemed, though, that our fisherman was not interested in our attempts at approbation or in answering fool questions from a couple of kids. So we wisely stood on the sideline and watched, each content to lend silent, moral support.

Now 1928 is a long time ago, but the picture of this lone fisherman remains sharp and clear as if it were yesterday, so greatly was I impressed. I noticed even then that everything he did seemed well planned, every movement as if well rehearsed. There was no waste motion or effort. Truly, the game was his. Every bit of fishing technique was used for the sole purpose of putting another fish under that crate. So, as I say, we stood by and watched every move.

I remember the bait this superb fisherman used was store-bought shrimp (fifteen cents a pound in those days). These were impaled on a treble hook, one shrimp to each hook. What looked to me like a snap swivel was used to save time in re-baiting. When crabs, or whatever, stole his bait, he would quickly remove the treble from the snap, reach into a knapsack carried on his left side and bring forth one that had been previously baited and prepared for just such an eventuality. This was then swiftly attached to the rig and immediately cast out. (And that fellow could cast!) As I say, there was absolutely no waste motion. His basic rig was a fish finder gizmo and a five ounce pyramid sinker.

With this terminal tackle, he eventually caught one more weakfish. This one, he later told us, weighed about five pounds. He gently slid the fish onto the beach, carefully removed the hook, and to our utter amazement, returned it to the surf, telling us it was too small to keep. Murder!

Well...by this time, Sal and I were pretty well shook up and we figured what one fisherman could do—so could another. We ran back to the jetty, not answering the questioning glances we got, grabbed our rods, and scooted back to the spot we had left our crackerjack fisherman. He was gone. But that didn't faze us.

Now comes the part that may prove hard to believe, but I con you not. Picture if you will two kids making their first attempt at surf fishing. Two kids who knew from nothing, equipped with heavy two by four-type boat rods, wooden sidewinder reels, linen line, no leaders, and eight ounce diamond sinkers.

And no bait. But this was quickly rectified when Sal ran down the beach and returned with several of the broken skimmers we had used to harass each other a short time before. We didn't even consider if the bait was suitable. Just two innocent, fish-happy kids who were actually trembling with anticipation. We baited up and cast our rigs as far as we could—which wasn't far I'll tell you, probably no more than thirty feet. But it was enough.

We waited for action, not knowing what to expect. A possible five minutes had ticked by when Sal reared back on a fish and was hooked up. It wasn't a weakfish. It was a striper of about four pounds. Then I got one about the same size; then another. When the flurry ended, we have five stripers on the beach: Sal three, and two for me, all around the same size.

In our excitement, we hadn't noticed that other surf casters up the line had spotted the action and they now came rushing up the beach. But it was all over by then. One of these late-comers mentioned he had been fishing since dawn without a hit and when we told him our story, he just shook his head in disbelief. He was convinced he had been casting over the fish all that time. Those fish, he said, must have been feeding right in the wash all along. We took his word for it. Whether it was so or

not, we didn't know. But we knew we were two lucky kids. No question about it.

Okay—enough tooting my own horn. Let's relate something that I've seen happen only once and will probably never happen again in just the exact way.

This is one of the incidents I used to reply in response from several readers' requests for something humorous that happened on the fishing scene. (Whether it was humorous or not is up to you to decide.) In reply to these letters, I received one comment: "Don't ever write about it, Matt. If you do, no one will believe it."

Well...let's see.

One balmy May morning in 1930 I was aboard the Rose R II from Canarsie. We were ling fishing around the old Ambrose Lightship and everyone was doing pretty well as one often does when ling-fishing this area. My unknown companion at the rail not only had a butter tub full of choice ling, he also had a nice cod about ten or twelve pounds. Unquestionably he had the pool fish, for it was highly unlikely that anyone else on board would deck another cod at that time of year from this area. It was one of those lucky catches that befall all of us if we fish long enough.

This fortunate fisherman had a buddy along, but this fellow was conspicuous by his absence on deck. It seemed he had imbibed a mite too much the night before and was spending his fishing time down below sleeping off the results. I guess it was an hour or so before quitting time, when upon the deck appeared the hung-over friend.

He immediately spotted his friend's cod and wanted to know how it was caught. I suppose the lucky fisherman was a practical joker of sorts, for he gave a blow-by-blow accounting, embellishing it with great relish, and then added: "Remember those hot dogs we brought along for lunch?" His friend replied yes—he did remember those hot dogs. "Well, " continued the cod catcher, "I put one on the top hook. This is what I caught. The pool fish."

But old Bleary-Eyes wasn't stupid. "Don't give me that" was all he said.

I suppose that would have been the end of it, but several other passengers at the rail wanting to share in the fun chimed in with agreement. "That's right," they echoed. "That's exactly how that cod was caught."

This overwhelming evidence from a seemingly unimpeachable source was too much for the innocent, unbelieving fisherman. He groped his way below, returned with a hot dog, impaled it on the top hook of his dropline and sent the rig to the bottom. He was game, I'll say that.

A probable half-hour passed, midst much giggling and whispering. Eventually, interest slacked off and everyone in on the gag went back to their fishing, forgetting for the moment the butt of their joke. But not for long.

Because I was in sympathy with the poor guy, I kept my eye on him and by so doing saw exactly what happened. The slack of the hand-held dropline became taut. No longer was the hung-over fisherman lounging half asleep at the rail. In an instant he was full awake and attentive. With one mighty yank, he set the hook into a resisting fish. Hand over hand and grunting with the effort, he slowly drew in the line. Up came a large white hake which was easily eighteen pounds if it was an ounce—a mangled hot dog protruding from its mouth. A gaff was socked to the thrashing fish and over the rail came the true pool-winner of the day.

I'm sure there is a moral to this story somewhere; but just now that is beside the point. These are but two of the unusual events I've witnessed or participated in throughout a long and varied fishing career. I hope you accept them in the truthful spirit in which they were given.

I'm sure there must be some of you fellows who can match these stories. If so, drop me a line at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. Be glad to hear from you and we'll go over them together.

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Surf Side with Vito Orlando

MONTAUK'S OTHER FACE

Often, when one thinks of Montauk, one also thinks of sturdy men in rubber suits, casting giant plugs from huge slippery boulders. However, unknown to many, Montauk also has another face, and that is, the peace and tranquility that is associated with bottom fishing. This is especially true during those summer months when the warm water sends the bass into their annual doldrums. Considering each year as being slightly different, the bottom fishing usually gets under way by the second week of July. Such places as Split Rock, Turtle Cove, Ditch Plains, and the Front Beach (Sand Beach) produce well during these lazy days of summer. Since the Front Beach (Sand Beach) is the closest to town, I'll begin there. To fish the Sand Beach, a buggy is NOT required. Once in the Town of Montauk, turn right at the Mobil Station and proceed past the church to the water. After leaving the car, walk east (to the left) for about fifty yards or so. Anywhere from this point to the Bluffs (Indian's) is productive. Try to arrange your arrival to coincide with the last three hours of the incoming tide. Make plans to stay until the tide turns. I have found that after the second hour of the ebb, the fishing usually begins to taper off. Stop in at Kronich's Tackle Store and get the exact tidal stages for that particular day. They are always posted on the board.

During these summer months, the striped bass will move closer to this beach during the hours of darkness. Sandworms account for most of the fish taken here. These worms should be fished from a fish finder rig. Use a 5/0 or 6/0 Eagle Claw hook, with the bait holders attached to the shank. Place a cork on the leader to keep the worms flowing freely and off the bottom, out of the way of the annoying crabs.

When baiting these hooks, be sure to string the worms and not to thread or bunch them on the hook. There may be some of you who are unaware that there is a correct way to string worms so they will appear more natural and will not be lost when cast. Grasping the sandworm just below its mouth, very gently squeeze. This will cause his mouth to open. Insert the point of the hook into the open mouth and then down about one-half inch, then out through the body. You will notice that there is a piece of bony structure near the head of the worm that will hold the hook in place. (You can now take the leader and twirl it and watch the worm remain on the hook.) Slide the worm over the second bait holder, then repeat with a second worm. I prefer to string two worms and feel that two are more appealing to the bass than one.

Since the bottom is sandy, a four to five ounce pyramid sinker is in order. A sand spike is a must, unless you want to hold the rod for a few hours. A neck light is needed, even if it's just used to help bait your hook.

I would suggest twenty pound test Ande monofilament line cast with a ten to eleven foot medium action surf rod. You will be lobbing up to five ounces of lead plus hooks and bait. Line any lighter may result in lost tackle and yes, even those expensive sandworms.

A south or southwest wind is considered best here. These winds will cause the surf to become a bit rougher and will help the fishing. The higher surf will loosen many morsels of food from the ocean floor and thus attract the bass. Also at these times, the pesty crabs will be buried deeper in the sand, and won't be a nuisance. You'll probably need waders.

East of the Sand Beach, just past the Bluffs, is another similar shore line known as Ditch Plains. You can walk there from the Front Beach; however, why walk when you can ride. Take the road toward the lighthouse and look for the signs announcing Ditch Plains. Turn right and proceed to the water. Again, a buggy is not required here. You will now be on the east side of the Indian's. As you will notice, there is very deep water close to the beach. There is also a large offshore bar. High water is good here, but don't overlook low tide in the sloughs that run between this bar and the beach. The same items of equipment that are used on the Sand Beach are also suited for use at Ditch Plains.

You will notice a small rock jetty to your left. This should be the extreme end of your bottom fishing activity. On the east side of this jetty is a rocky reef and many other rocks that extend a long way eastward. For all practical purposes, this area is unsuited for bottom fishing.

Moving further to the east, we arrive at Turtle Cove. Now the problem. The main access road into Turtle Cove runs through the Air Force Base. Last season, because of some vandals (it's funny how fishermen always get blamed for any and all vandalism), the "Fort" has been put off-limits. There is, however, another way into the Cove. You can climb down the rocks to the right of the lighthouse. It is a little tricky, but it can be safely done.

Acting upon the assumption that you are going to fish Turtle Cove, I'll briefly cover the fishing there. No buggy is required in order to fish the Cove, and the same type of tackle and bait that you used elsewhere should be used here. There is one important fact about bottom fishing at Turtle Cove. You will notice, to your right (towards Browns and the Bluffs) that there will be a lone rock practically sitting on the beach at low water. It's to the right of that rock that a hole lies approximately 125' off the beach. Your bait should be in this area for the best results.

Leaving this area, we will drive around the North Bar (you now need a buggy) past Rocky Point and the Stepping Stones to Split Rock. This should only be done at or near low tide, as any strong storm can quickly wash away this part of the beach. After passing the last group of rocks, you will see a lone rock sitting off the beach. As you face this rock, you will notice that it's split—hence, its name. Once at Split Rock, you will observe a buggy track in the dunes. This road eventually comes out on the main drag, across from the "Fort." However, unless you want to get your nice paint job spoiled by the thick undergrowth, I suggest not using this route. Most anglers who fish here will approach it from Shagwong. It is an easy ten minute ride along the road from Shagwong toward the lighthouse. You will now be approaching Split Rock from the opposite side.

The best time to fish here is the last three hours of the incoming tide until the last three hours of the outgoing. As a matter of fact, many of the regulars can be seen fishing during these times here, then running to Shagwong to plug the remainder of the ebb.

Again, the same bait and tackle used elsewhere is in order here. Long casts are not required as many of the fish are taken close to the beach. Sometimes a gill netter makes his sets here (this should tell you something about the fishing). Take a look during the daytime and fish around these nets if it's the case. At Split Rock, weakfish are often an added attraction. In the daytime, porgies and blackfish will steal your baits meant for bass; so unless you want them, wait until it gets dark before putting the worms out.

Since sandworms are rather difficult to obtain at Montauk, let me suggest purchasing them elsewhere. Any other items, including the latest up-to-date fishing information (along with skimmer clams for those porgies and blackfish) can be obtained at Kronich's Tackle.

What I had hoped to accomplish by this article was to point out to you one more way of overcoming those summer doldrums. So if you are in need of a new venture, give these locations a try, and become acquainted with the other face of Montauk.

Good luck and good fishing.

How To Fillet A PORGY

by Judy Ahrens Morris

Filleting a fish is a practical skill that isn't as hard as it looks. It just takes practice. And by learning to fillet, you'll save yourself the trouble of picking through fish bones when you eat it.

This series of photos illustrates how to fillet a porgy, found in these waters from spring through late fall. Most other fish can be filleted in the same way, as long as the bone structure is taken into consideration. Remember to always keep the fish moist. If it dries out, especially from sitting in the sun, it will be almost impossible to scale.

Step 1: Lay the fish on its side. Remove all scales with a tail to head motion. Never use a knife edge because it will dull the blade. Use the back side of a knife or a scaler. A scaler is an inexpensive utensil (under $1) that is a time-saver.

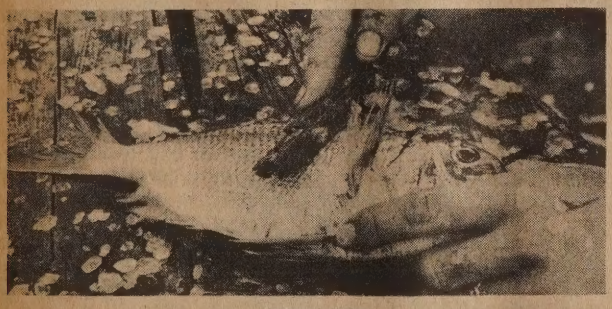
Step 2: Take a long, thin, sharp knife and cut from behind the pectoral fin upward, following gills to top of fish. Cut deep enough to touch the backbone, but not beyond. This cut should be on an angle, following the contour of head and not in a straight line in order to get the most meat. Hold knife flexibly in your hand so it can move with the contours of the fish's bone structure.

Step 3: Cut along dorsal (top) surface of fish, making outline of fillet on three sides. Once again, do not pierce backbone.

Step 4: Angle knife inward. As you cut, peel back fillet with each stroke of knife. The knife should be sharp enough so pressure need not be applied. Let the knife do the cutting.

Step 5: Keep cutting over backbone to ventral (lower) portion of fish. Be careful to cut over stomach cavity and not through. This ensures the fillet is boneless. Never cut into any bones while filleting.

Step 6: Pull fillet back completely and remove with single slice of knife. Now flip fish over and repeat procedure.

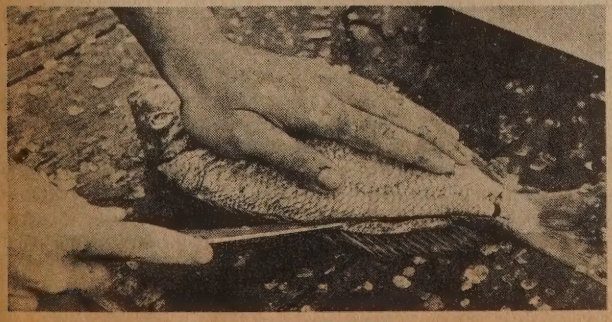


STEP ONE

STEP FOUR

STEP TWO

STEP FIVE



STEP THREE

STEP SIX

Speed Squidding Blues

by Richard Giessuebel

When using tubes, which are leadheaded colored lengths of tubing with one large single hook protruding out somewhere in the rear, you must again wait for the lure to get down to the bottom before you begin to retrieve. From here on, however, you can do several things with the tubes that you can't do with the diamonds. You can, of course, fish them as if they were diamonds, thereby only paying attention to your speed of retrieve, or you can allow them to drift along with the boat or to be played back further into a very strong current. You could also elect to retrieve the lure at a very slow rate of speed. In any case, in whatever way you elect to fish them, a hit can come at any time.

Then too, on any given day, you can more assuredly expect the blues to act in a different manner in regards to the presentation of the tubes. The thing to remember here is to vary your act. Try to use every tube (assorted weights and colors) in every possible manner. Soon you'll know the ones that work most readily and your trial period will decrease considerably. However, for right now, go through all of these approaches until you find the one that works and then you'll be in business.

The best way to accomplish this end is to have several guys, each fishing a different lure and approach. Then, once one has met with success, all the others should immediately switch to it. Now, this doesn't always keep you in fish, but if you fish this way with several friends, you'll undoubtedly find out what's happening faster than if you were to attempt it alone.

Other points to consider while squidding are how to hook the fish and weights of line that should be used in order to be most successful. As far as hooking goes, often the blues will engulf your entire lure. If you don't apply some power while hooking, the lure will remain in the blue's mouth and it will only be a matter of time until his razor-sharp teeth have cut through your line. Therefore, you must keep the tip of your pole pointed down toward the water. Then once the fish has hit the lure and is attempting to get back down to the bottom as shown by your pole's tip beginning to dig deeper, you must pull up with all of your might. By doing this, the hook will be driven into the fish and if the entire lure is in his mouth, you stand a good chance of pulling enough of it out so that he will not be able to get at your line. Also, right now is where he's going to fight the hardest, so maintain good pressure here and most of the fight can be taken out of the fish.

Where lines are concerned, you shouldn't use any of tests over twenty-five pounds. Also, sometimes the swivel will chase fish away or make others strike at it, which will immediately sever the lure from your line. So, we've come up with another strategy here that you can employ. We say that you should always start fishing at **your** maximum advantage; that is, use twenty-five pound test and a black swivel. If the fish are biting—great! Stay that way! However, if they're not, then begin to search for the right combination by first removing your swivel. If you are still not successful, then you must consider using lighter line.

Now, to change all of your line at this point would be ridiculous; so either change spools which have different weights of line on them, or braid about twenty feet of a lighter line to your terminal gear. The knot I use when doing this is the double improved blood knot. You make it by bringing your two lines together. Then, working with one line at a time, twist the line around itself three times. Bring the end of the line through the new opening and wrap it around itself twice. Now, wet the knot and pull tight. Do this again with the other line and you'll have a very tidy and strong knot. Snip off all extra ends, and you'll be ready to fish.

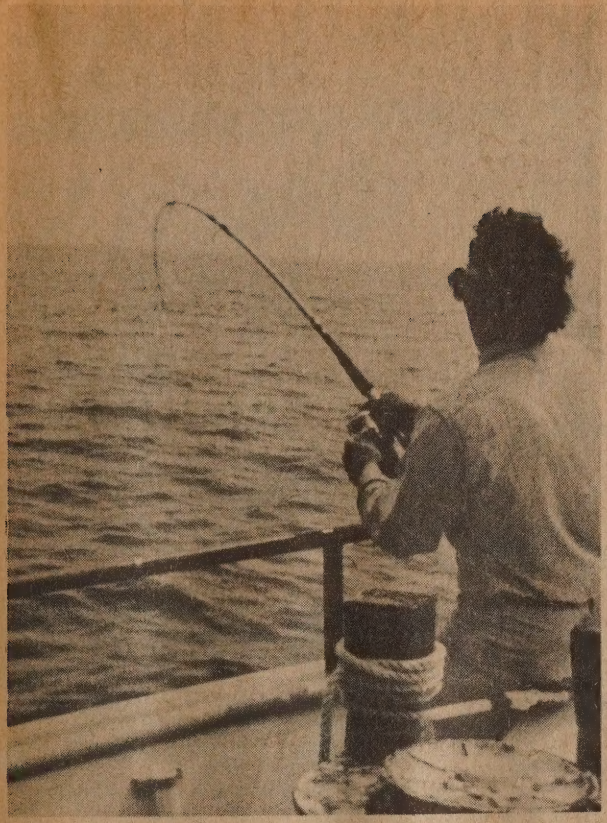
What test lines should you carry? Well, I wouldn't go lighter than fifteen pound test; therefore, twenty, seventeen and fifteen would be all that you'd require. Remember, at night it doesn't matter how heavy the line is, but during the day, the fish can be spooked by heavy lines. So in order to be successful, you must give a lot of consideration to this point. Also, when the fish'll have it **their** way and you can only connect with fifteen pound test and no swivel, you must maintain a constant vigil on your line for any nicks or abrasions that might have been created by fighting the bluefish and at the first sign of either, you must cut away the line in question. Another thing to do is to change your knot to the lure or swivel and braiding ever so often to keep them at maximum strength even though you've boated a few fish and everything seems to be holding up fine. Remember too, that even though I take all of these precautions, I still can't go through a single trip where I don't lose something. You can just imagine then, what it would be like if you didn't give your line or knots any consideration at all.

Finally, if you're willing to take all of these precautions, then you might as well purchase and fish only the best lines and swivels. You should get black-finished coastlock swivels in the 75-100 lb. test category where you'd expect to pay in the area of seventy-five cents apiece for them. As far as lines, pink Ande and Stren are both great names and although you may pay a little more for them, they'll certainly hold up well on that trip you've been wanting to take.

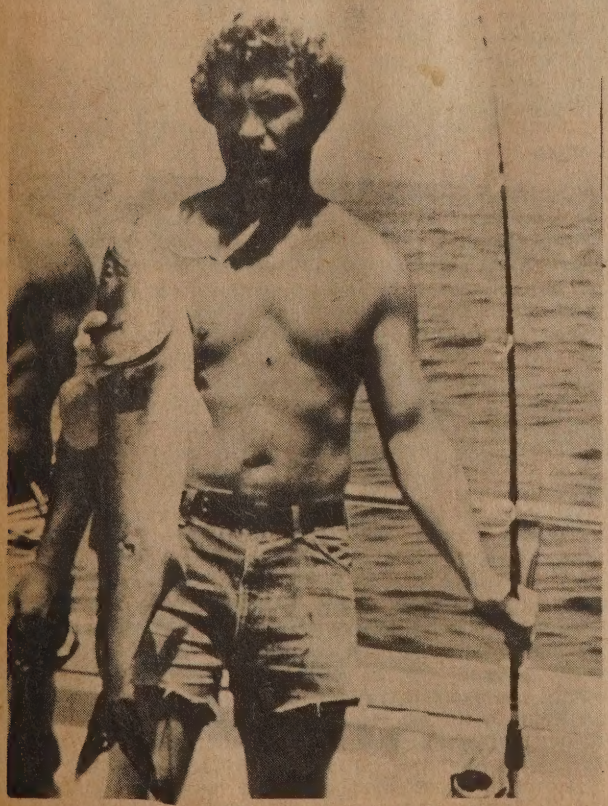
So remember, if you've had problems boating blues or any other game fish in the past, you'd be wise to attempt to find out about their feeding habits and the evasive reactions of their favorite bait fish. Then, using all of the guile of a true and proven veteran, employ a technique that'll best imitate your findings. If you're not immediately successful, don't give up. Change some of the little things and see if it doesn't make a difference. Then, be persistent, hang in there, and keep on trying; eventually you'll get the point of it all, and from then on—so will all of your fish.

The boat slowed. Its engines were thrown into reverse. The lure that was hung over the side of the boat in anticipation of the first cast just barely moved through the water. Then, once the boat reached an extremely slow forward speed, the lure was cast well out in front of the boat, so that as the boat's forward speed ever so slightly decreased, the lure would be somewhere directly beneath the boat when it would reach the bottom. As this event was about to happen, the captain spoke over the ship's intercom and informed all of those onboard that the boat was right now over quite a large body of fish. Finally, my line stopped coming off the spool, indicating that my lure had indeed reached the bottom. The Captain, Ralph Pennel, hit the ship's whistle indicating that chumming had begun and those who were fishing bait could begin to drop their baits back to the waiting fish. However, for me, all that was left to do was to retrieve my lure; and to that task I immediately set.

With my pole's tip held down to the water over the side of the Point Pleasant, New Jersey-based boat, the Cock Robin, I began cranking the handle on my Ryobi AX-124 which I was field testing for Ryobi American Corporation. The 4.3-1 gear ratio started my lure on its



Mike Kersey battles a blue which hit his lure several turns off the bottom.



Author holds an eight pounder caught on extremely light tackle.

trip speeding back directly to me.

No sooner had my lure reached about ten feet off of the fifty-five foot bottom, when a slight bump was registered. This was my initial signal that an interested bluefish was close at hand and that I should crank the handle ever faster in an attempt to increase my lure's speed so that it would appear to the blue that my lure was actually trying to get away from it. As soon as I did this, the blue quickly jumped onto the business end of my jig.

With that, the pole's tip (which, if you remember, was about in the water) began solidly digging in an attempt to go still deeper. At this point, I pulled that pole straight up to a position of about as high as I could possibly get it above my head.

'Fish on!"

And one solidly hooked blue began his battle for life. He ran up and off the boat, where he eventually surfaced some ten yards off the port bow. There he made a spectacular leap and still being deeply hooked, he sounded. The drag on my medium action, saltwater reel began to sing as the fish dove to where he finally began to swim sideways rather than straight down through the water. It was now time for my pole to take over. It was an "Ugly Stick" which maintained a full bend and which wouldn't allow the fish one single easy inch. The light seven foot, single piece pole worked very hard responding to the pressure of the fish which was unsuccessfully attempting to break it in two.

Eventually, the fish was whipped and brought back up to the surface, where he was gaffed. With that, the ten pounder was unhooked and sacked, while the line was checked for frays. And with all being found in order, the lure was dropped back down to the bottom where the technique known as "speed squidding" could begin once again.

This wasn't a new technique and, in fact, had been used by anglers in the New England States —somehow eluding the more southern New Jersey and states below. However, since party boat captains were having difficult times in the more southern waters keeping the big chopper bluefish in most daytime chum slicks, it became increasingly more obvious that we would have to adopt some of the know-how exhibited in the north where they never really liked to rely upon our old Jersey practice of chumming. Now, let's get right down to the nuts-and-bolts of this story and see if we can't digest some of the terms and events that have just been described.

For starters, chum is actually ground up menhaden, which is an oily forage fish and which is more commonly called mossbunker or just plain ol' bunker by the old salts along our coast. This chum is then mixed with water in a bucket and tossed out around either an anchored or drifting boat in an attempt to attract whatever hungry game fish might be in the area to the general vicinity of the boat. As the chum starts to spread out and to settle down in the water, fishermen employ the backs of the ground-up bunker which were cut off prior to the grinding process by drifting them back into the freshly created slick to the hopefully hungry and feeding bluefish. Then, all an angler has to do is to wait for the feeding blues to mistake a chunk of bunker back with his hook in it for a helplessly floating free piece of chum—after which, the fireworks begin.

Prior to the spreading of the chum, the captain had been moving his boat around over the marauding bluefish in the hopes of finding on his ship's fish finder where their concentrations were the largest. Once he had located this situation, he cut his engines and attempted to stop the boat directly overhead. Then he had his mates begin the chumming process and although he knew it would be some time before he'd know if the fish would actually stick and feed in his chum slick, he signaled his fares to begin dropping their baits back.

Before this signal, however, my lure was on its way to the bottom. With this, I knew that my lure would be totally surrounded by the fish which were recorded on the fish finder the moment when I started to reel it back

(Continued on next page.)

toward the boat. In fact, in the past, I've been successful on over ninety per cent of the times I've fished this first cast approach.

As for the chummers, they couldn't get their baits down to the fish any faster than the chum or the fish wouldn't really have the opportunity to start an unmolested feeding. So they had to drift their baits back with the chum and they, perhaps, reached the bottom several minutes or so after my lure had already had an opportunity to sting a fish.

The lures that are used for this technique must be heavy and must bear a resemblance to, and act like the bait on which the blues may be feeding. This, then, brings to the forefront quite a variety of lures: for if the fish are feeding on sand eels (which is usually the case) the diamond jigs and weighted tubes are the speed squidder's order of the day; if they're into shrimp, the squidder will use bucktails; and if they're into anchovies, spearing, small blues, or herring, then the squidder will select a flattened out piece of metal like a Hopkins to catch the fish.

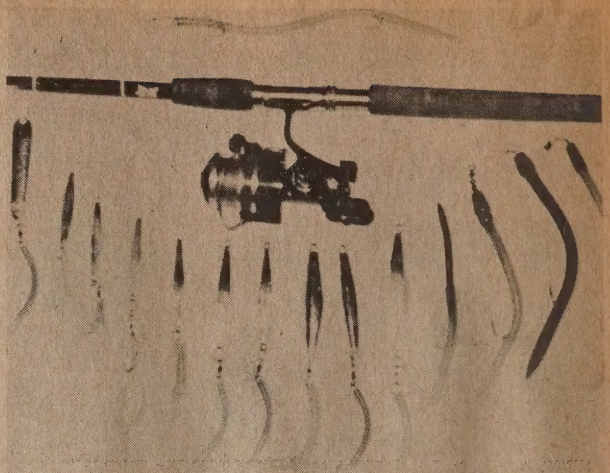
With so many possible patterns, in order to be successful on as many occasions as possible, the squidder has to be prepared and has to be able to present the lure that imitates the bait fish that the blues are feeding on at that moment. Therefore, he better have quite a selection of lures on hand to use when the situation arises. However, over the years, I've found out that it certainly isn't the lure that takes the fish, but more importantly, it's the manner in which the lure is presented and the speed at which it's retrieved that makes it so effective. For example, I've often outfitted a friend or several friends with the exact same lure as I'm using. Then, I'd break them in on how to present and retrieve it. Yet, by the time the day's usually over, I'd have outfished the group, some of whom, on occasions where I've boated over twenty fish, have gone fishless. However, once a person acquires the knack of varying his retrieval speeds, hooking his fish, and how to stick at a speed that's receiving all the hits, then he, too, will be into an awful lot of action.

This speed squidding technique is so effective that every once in awhile the chummers have just watched in amazement: that is, they've come up fishless, while we've had fish on almost the entire day. True, on these occasions, they'd make small efforts to emulate our approach, but once they became aware that their efforts weren't being rewarded, they'd quickly retreat back to safe grounds and to their more familiar ways of drifting the bunker backs. With all this said, I hope that you can see that this technique is a bit more than luck and if you're at all interested in learning why it works and how you, too, can use it—read on.

First of all, when blues are feeding on sand eels, they expect this bait fish to attempt to avoid being eaten by maneuvering in a certain way. After all, they've been feeding on sand eels all of their lives and they know that once an eel has been singled out and the chase is on, that the eel is most likely to turn and swim straight up at a speed of as about as fast as it possibly can in order to best evade capture.

Using this knowledge, your lure must do exactly that which the bluefish is used to experiencing or you, too, will come up empty. The lure, in order to be most effective, must be dropped all the way down to the sand below where once it has been started on its upward movement, it'll appear to any nearby bluefish as if they've just flushed a sand eel out of its hiding place and then, it must dash off like it has just seen the Devil himself and was in full fear of being consumed. This is, also, where your lure stands its best chances of being struck. However, often the blues will just follow along behind the lure and strike it at their leisure anywhere along its route to the boat. So you've got to be on a constant guard and you can't give up on the lure, like so many of the beginners do, if they haven't received a strike after the first couple of turns.

As far as my lures, they all have single heavy-duty, long shanked hooks replacing the original trebles that were on at the time of purchase. Along with the metal, I also carry an assortment of single-hooked, colored rubber tubes which I alternate on successive drifts while I search for any preferential color the blues may have on a particular day. Should any such color present itself, I then immediately fish nothing but that color until it becomes quite obvious that the fish have lost interest in it. Should this occur, I simply go back and begin my search anew.



Light seven foot Ugly Stick and Ryobi AX-124 reel plus an assortment of metals and tubes used for squidding. Many different color tubes may be used for teaser tails.

Here's a good place to slow down a bit and further discuss a few things just mentioned. For instance, I like the single hooks in comparison to the trebles because once you've gotten a fish into the boat, the hook can be readily removed, and you don't have to worry about impaling yourself on any other hooks than just the one at hand. Also, with a single hook, a higher percentage of the fish hooked will be boated. This is due to the fact that with the trebles the fish can get some leverage on the hook that has him caught and, actually, he can rip this hook out by twisting vigorously, something he'll always do, while he's being brought up to the surface.

The multi-colored tubes are used as teasers and believe it or not, from day to day, the blues actually show a variance in preference for a particular color. Therefore, you've got to be ready and if you don't have an assortment on hand, you may be in for a long day. The colors that I've found to be most successful are green, wine (neutral), black, red, and hot orange. So in my tackle box I carry hooks with these various colors on them and when I begin a day's fishing, I usually go through them until I find the one that's right.

As for the diamonds, any hunk of lead'll do, but there are variations on the market. One particular variation is the Ava diamond that is more flattened out and that gives some side-to-side motion to the lure as it's being retrieved. However, let me reiterate, it's most certainly the technique and the color of the teaser that takes the fish and very seldom does the type of diamond used effect the eventual outcome.

Another thing which really separates the men from the boys where speed squidding is concerned is who can vary the speed of his lure to best represent what the bait fish are doing today. That is, if the fish aren't hitting on an all-out fast retrieve (which most beginners are instructed to use), then you must, ever decreasingly, slow it down; but a "certainty" here is that if, as mentioned earlier, your lure is bumped while on its way up, you most certainly have an interested party swimming right alongside of it. Now, in order to make him strike 100% of the times, all you have to do is to reel faster and actually make the lure pull away from him. He'll think that the bait fish is attempting to escape, and he'll strike it every time.

JULY TOURNAMENTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

OFFSHORE ANGLERS WHO LIKE TO CHALLENGE BIG FISH SUCH AS TUNA, BLUEFISH, SHARKS AND MARLIN HAVE THE FOLLOWING NORTHEASTERN JULY TOURNAMENTS TO COMPETE IN FOR STATUS, TROPHIES, PRIZES, CASH AND FISH COLUMN WRITE-UPS.

TUNA & MARLIN...THE 24TH ANNUAL L.I. MARLIN & TUNA TOURNAMENT BY *SOUTH SHORE MARLIN & TUNA CLUB*, JULY 14-15. HQ AT MAJOR L.I. MARINAS.

THE BABYLON TUNA CLUB'S 23RD ANNUAL MARLIN-TUNA INVITATION TOURNAMENT, JULY 28-29 AT BABYLON VILL. DOCK. PROCEEDS TO ASS'N. FOR RETARDED CHILDREN - CALL AL PASQUALE 516-567-5200 DAYS AND 516-422-6244 NIGHTS.

BLUEFISH...8TH ANNUAL "CHOPPER ROUNDUP" BY *THE AMITY HARBOR FISHING CLUB* OF L.I. JULY 14. FOR INFORMATION CALL 516-536-7327.

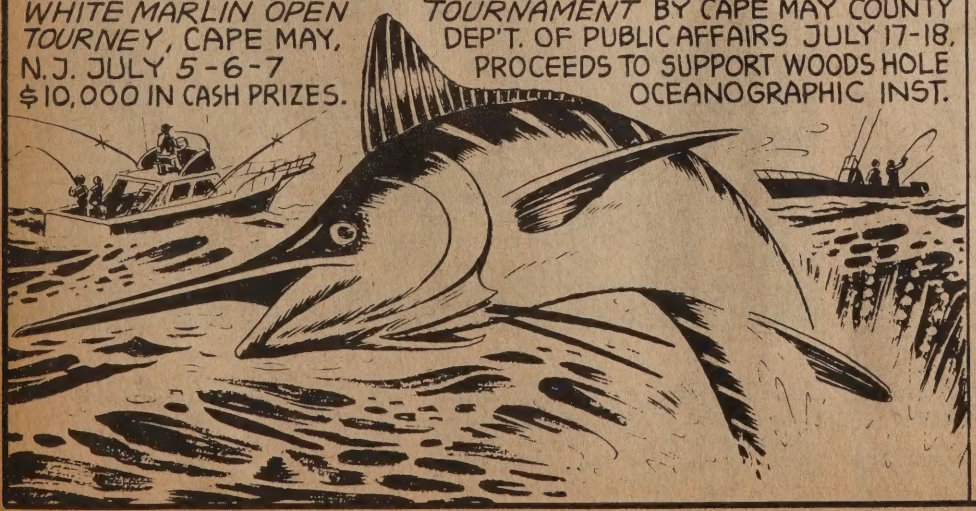
SHARKS... *CHARVIN OPEN SHARK TOURNAMENT* AT CHARVIN FISHING STATION, FREEPORT, L.I. JULY 7.

L.I. OPEN SHARK TOURNAMENT AT MAKO MARINA, FREEPORT, L.I. JULY 14-15.

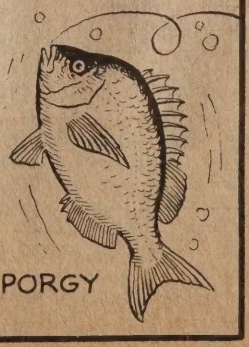
SHARK TAG TOURNAMENT MONTAUK MARINE BASIN, L.I...JULY 21-22.

MARLIN... 2ND ANNUAL *WHITE MARLIN OPEN TOURNEY*, CAPE MAY, N.J. JULY 5-6-7 $10,000 IN CASH PRIZES.

23RD ANNUAL CAPE MAY, N.J. MARLIN TOURNAMENT BY CAPE MAY COUNTY DEP'T. OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS JULY 17-18. PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INST.



BEST FISHING DAYS FOR JULY WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW* AND *FULL* ARE JULY 1-9 & JUL. 23-AUG. 7



PORGY

THE YEAR OF THE SWORDFISH

by Al Ristori

As an outdoor writer, I've always prided myself on writing only about subjects with which I'm thoroughly familiar. However, in this case I'm making an exception. In point of fact, I've never caught a swordfish. What's more, I've only specifically fished for them on two occasions—and have fought only one accidentally-hooked swordfish. On the other hand, if you count the twelve-and-a-half hours fighting time I put into that one fish, I'm probably among the top few hundred swordfishermen in the world in that category!

Despite my relative lack of experience with swordfish, I'm hardly alone in that department. Until the last couple of years, there probably weren't more than a few hundred individuals who had actually boated a swordfish, and an estimate of perhaps 2,000 swordfish by angling in the history of the sport prior to 1977 is probably pretty accurate. The great revolution in the sport occurred a few years ago when sportsmen in the Miami area tried drifting in the Gulf Stream at night and caught swordfish with great consistency. No longer was it necessary to be wealthy enough to own (or charter) a large Sportfisherman equipped with tuna tower, to search days on end for a fish that would rarely bite in any case. Now any seaworthy craft can engage in a "blind" fishery, no more complicated than shark fishing, with a very good chance of success. Swordfish still don't "jump in the boat," but Xiphias gladius ("sword" in Greek and "sword" in Latin) is no longer the exclusive province of those with both lots of time and money.

An article I wrote relative to 1978 swordfish prospects ran in last year's June 20th edition. At that time, I predicted a big surge in night swordfishing activity along the edges of the Canyons. Not only did that occur, but I wouldn't have been so bold as to predict how successful it would turn out to be. While I wouldn't venture a guess as to how many boats actually boated fish, I talked to few anglers who tried it on a decent night and didn't at least hook-up. Many boats had several fish on in the course of a night's fishing.

Typical of the results was the Atlantic Beach Rod & Gun Club Tournament in August. Three of the five boats participating in that overnight event scored with swordfish—a total of four being boated. Largest was a 226 pounder by Dr. Jerry Trussel on the "Marlena." There was nothing unusual about those results—the same thing was happening from just about every port from Atlantic City to Montauk. Probably the most concentrated effort occurred at the inaugural Ocean City, N.J. Swordfish Tournament. In one night a fifty-six boat fleet put forty-two swordfish on the dock! There were no extremely large

fish (a 208 pounder was tops); but one boat got three that totaled 450 lbs.

Throughout the summer, the capture of swordfish in the Canyons became so commonplace that the lucky angler would often rate no more than a line between accounts of porgy and bluefish catches in the fishing columns. Indeed, the same sort of thing was going on around the world. Using the Florida method, Dr. James Cancelmo of Devon, Pa., caught the first swordfish ever recorded off Bermuda. The same nighttime method worked as well in the Gulf of Mexico, where the Texas state record fell week after week. By late August, it was up to 286 lbs. Famous big game fisherman, Dr. Ruben Jaen, tried this fishing on the night of July 22 off the coast of Caracas, Venezuela. He not only boated the first two swordfish (110 and 233 lbs.) ever caught there on rod and reel, but his partner also lost two others. In 1977, night swordfish were recorded from such diverse areas as South Carolina and Cozumal, and I suspect that they were caught from just about every Atlantic and Gulf Coast state last year.

The most amazing aspect of this fishery is the ease with which these fish have been located. It's a very big ocean out there, and a single boat drifting along in one hundred to five hundred fathoms with two or three baited lines set at varying depths hardly seems to have much of a chance at locating what we used to consider a "rare" fish. The fact that they are being taken with such great consistency is a sure indication that there are lots of swordfish out there!

Until recently we had very little knowledge of the swordfish's life style—and much of the earlier information has turned out to be false. Since man has long known that swordfish "sun" themselves on the surface, it was assumed that they are primarily night feeders. This seemed to be a logical assumption, as they have very large eyes well adapted to feeding in great depths; are often found with deep water bottom fish in their stomachs; and are almost always reluctant to take baits offered to them when encountered on the surface. We now know that most swordfish probably behave quite differently.

I got a good indoctrination in swordfish habits while sailing aboard the "Sea World" at Cabo San Lucas, Baja California a couple of years ago. That elegant collecting vessel for the Sea World Aquariums was leased to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute for sonic tagging studies of swordfish carried out by Dr. Frank Carey. Swordfish are quite commonly spotted on the surface off Cabo San Lucas in the spring and Frank determined that this would be a good area in which to tag and track these fish to get an idea of their daily routine.

Just before I got there, Frank had tracked a swordfish for several days. We then harpooned another with a sonic tag and followed it for almost a day-and-a-half. Contact was finally lost during a stormy night, when the harpooning platform was smashed in heavy seas. We had to secure the platform as best we could on the wave-washed decks, and turn tail to the nearest anchorage. Despite the loss of that contact, the pattern had already been established. Just as with the first swordfish, this fish was tagged while sunning himself on the surface over the Continental Shelf. After being hit, he went to the bottom and continued to swim about the rest of the afternoon. An interesting aspect of this tagging was the appearance of the swordfish at the same time that marlin, sailfish, and dolphin also started showing over an area that had previously been quiet. Indeed, as we slowly tracked the swordfish we were able to cast live baits at surfacing fish in our path—catching a sailfish and two dolphin!

As the sun started setting the swordfish turned toward deeper water and proceeded offshore at a steady pace. Once off the Shelf, the swordfish moved toward the surface and stayed within a hundred feet or so all night. Just before dawn the pattern was reversed. The swordfish turned toward the Shelf and sounded, swimming along the bottom as he spent the afternoon in shallower waters. That evening, the previous night's basic path was retraced before we had to break off contact in the storm. As previously noted, this is exactly the same pattern that had been traced for days with the first fish tagged. The presumption is that the swordfish feed along the bottom over the shelf (in about three hundred feet) during the day, but then feed on squid (and possibly other species) that are found in surface waters over the great depths offshore at night. Apparently, these swordfish only surface over the shelf on a very occasional basis. The reason is still strictly a matter for speculation. It could have something to do with the regulation of body temperature after feeding in cool bottom waters—or may simply be a pleasant way to spend some free time while digesting a meal.

In any case, the experience at Cabo San Lucas fits in nicely with the current pattern of night swordfishing. This fishing is done in waters off the Shelf (over one hundred fathoms), and lines are usually set at thirty to one hundred twenty feet. Obviously considering the great success achieved in almost every area where this technique has been employed, this is where most of the fish are. Though no one is fishing for them in that fashion as yet, there is also ample evidence to indicate that swordfish do feed on

(Continued on next page.)

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the bottom at the edge of, and over, the shelf during the day. This has been proven conclusively by foreign squid trawlers operating along the edges of the Canyons in our area. It is not at all uncommon for them to catch swordfish while dragging squid. Presumably, swordfish are not normally dumb enough to get involved with a trawl on a very regular basis—indicating that there are probably a great many swordfish down there. This may well be the next great "discovery" by offshore sport fishermen!

Unfortunately, all that we know about swordfish doesn't fall into such a neat pattern. For instance, off Cabo San Lucas there are also surfacing swordfish at times well off the Continental Shelf. Our last attempt at tracking was made on one of these fish, but didn't work out too well. The fish was tagged all right, but the sonic device didn't work correctly. However, the fish kept popping back up to the surface. Eventually, Frank had to ask another boat to harpoon the sword in order that he could find out what was wrong with the transmitter before the fish decided to go deep. Therefore, we know little about these offshore fish, except that they do behave differently from those found inshore. One possibility is that the offshore swordfish are migrating, while those inshore have settled down and established a daily feeding routine.

Swordfish are found throughout the temperate and tropical seas of the world, and scientists consider all these fish to be of a single species. The migratory pattern of this oceanic fish is still a mystery. So little tagging has been done that virtually everything we say about migrations must be qualified. For instance, until very recently many scientists and fishermen assumed that the swordfish found in the Gulf of Mexico and those in the Atlantic were different stocks. Then, lo and behold, we finally get a tag return on Georges Bank—and it turns out to be a fish tagged as a pup in the Gulf of Mexico! It would seem logical to assume that the swordfish found in Florida waters during the spring would move north during summer. However, that may not be true at all. Swordfish show in northeastern waters in June and July—the very time at which Florida anglers are really doing a job on them. It's more likely that the bulk of our swordfish move in from offshore waters. We do know they're abundant off Georges and Browns Banks during the winter.

The very range of the swordfish makes it difficult to figure out his migratory patterns with any certainty. In the western Atlantic, the range is from Argentina to Newfoundland, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Across the Atlantic, they're found from South Africa to Norway, including the Mediterranean and Black Seas. They are also found around the various islands in-between, and nothing is known about possible interchange from one side of the Atlantic to the other.

Much of the information we presently have about swordfish abundance and migratory patterns comes from Japanese longline data. While very accurate and detailed, such information cannot be considered very reliable in the case of the swordfish. The Japanese fishery is aimed at tuna rather than swordfish, and is, therefore, conducted during the day—not a prime time for swordfishing. Due to the tremendous increase in American longlining for swordfish (a night fishery specifically directed at that species) there is now available some very good data—if government scientists can just get at it. The problem is the almost clandestine nature of a fishery aimed at a species which has been virtually banned from U.S. markets (with a notable lack of success) by the FDA.

When the mercury scare first hit us about a decade ago, it was found that swordfish (and all large oceanic predators) exceeded the arbitrary FDA limit of .5ppm. Though there was no question that the mercury involved was natural (and has been there ever since man has been eating such species), and no evidence was offered that anyone had ever suffered ill effects from eating swordfish, the commercial fishery was virtually shut off overnight. It may well have happened at a good time for the species, as intensive longlining had appeared to have made a real dent in the population. By the time some commercial fishermen realized that the public's appetite for swordfish was undiminished (and that they could get away with selling the fish within state boundaries), the stocks had improved and huge profits were available to those willing to take a chance on this "prohibited" fishery.

While harpooning in New England was profitable enough, Cuban fishermen in Miami were really cleaning up by longlining swordfish just a few miles offshore, in the Gulf Stream, at night. As the "illegal" interstate shipment of swordfish became even more commonplace, there was a rush to get boats into the fishery—a situation that continues today. Further impetus was provided by a Federal Judge's ruling last year that the FDA limit of .5ppm was unreasonable, and couldn't be supported by scientific evidence. He increased the limit to 1ppm, a figure used by many other countries. While even that higher limit will not make all swordfish "legal," it probably will make it harder for FDA to enforce its rulings.

In view of the foregoing, it's little wonder that the swordfishing industry has been reluctant to make its valuable data available to government sources. However, the American Swordfishing Association has indicated a willingness to cooperate with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in the preparation of a management plan for swordfish. Data submitted to the Councils is protected by secrecy laws, and is safe from the prying eyes of even the FDA and IRS. Hopefully, this data will enable the Council to come up with a reasonable estimate of population levels, and formulate a management plan appropriate to the situation.

Fortunately, we do know a little about the life history of the swordfish. The fry are strange looking creatures—possessing skin covered with scales and spiny plates. Unlike their parents, the fry have both jaws toothed and of equal length, no sword, a rounded tail, and only one dorsal fin and one anal fin. When they reach a half pound in size, they take on the adult shape, but retain the scales until about thirty inches long. Since adult swordfish have no scales, conventional aging techniques can't be used. Experiments are being conducted to determine if it will be possible to use hard parts of the fish to make such a determination.

From what little data is available, it is believed that swordfish grow to about nine pounds in their first year, and to about thirty-three pounds after two years. At age three, they may be around eighty-eight pounds, increasing to 154 lbs. at age four and 242 lbs. at age five. Maximum age is believed to be at least nine years. The largest ever taken on rod and reel was 1,182 lbs. (off Chile), but Canadian commercial fishermen have recorded swordfish up to 1,200 pounds, dressed! Apparently, females grow at a faster rate than males, and the rate of growth appears to be faster in the Atlantic than the Pacific.

Very little is known about spawning, though one study indicates that ripe fish are five to six years old. Considering the fact that the vast majority of swordfish taken by longlining are smaller than spawning size, there may be a potential problem. Not that spawning females don't do a good job—producing from three to sixteen million egs. Swordfish larvae have been collected during every month of the year in the Florida current, but it is believed that most spawning occurs from December through September when water temperatures exceed 78°. The Gulf Stream north to Cape Hatteras is thought to be one of the major spawnings areas in the western north Atlantic Ocean.

In the north Atlantic, it appears that large females are taken almost exclusively on the surface; whereas the longline catch consists primarily of smaller males and females. Naturally, the catches made on rod and reel using the Florida method are similar to the longline results. Unless some drastic change occurs,

it's likely that almost all swordfish caught on rod and reel by this method in our area will weigh less than 250 lbs.—with the average size a great deal lower. On the other hand, this relationship doesn't seem to exist in waters to the south of us. Another interesting difference in warmer waters is that swordfish rarely surface. That certainly is true in Florida, though we now know that swordfish are quite abundant there. It's also true in many other areas—which is why fishermen are now surprised that they're able to catch swordfish with regularity at night. Of course, there are exceptions to this general rule in tropical areas. Swordfish commonly surface off Cabo San Lucas and Ecuador—though this may be influenced by cold currents.

Swordfish live in a wide variety of temperatures—from about 55° F. to at least the Eighties. Surfacing swordfish will become available in the north Atlantic as surface water layers reach the preferred sixty degree range. However, desirable temperatures are available at various depths in the Gulf Stream year-round, and there is no reason to suspect that our sportfishing season couldn't encompass most of the year—if we were willing to take the beating far offshore during the cold weather months. The key to such fishing might well be eddies that move inshore from the Stream from time to time. Commercial fishermen are well aware that swordfish tend to gather along oceanic temperature edges—indicating that sportsmen should be taking advantage of sophisticated temperature recording devices in order to search out likely drifting areas.

The basic Florida method is now so well known that it requires little further explanation. Basically, you fish just about the same as for sharks, except for the addition of a Cyalume night stick in the vicinity of the leader. Some anglers tie the night stick in ahead of the leader; while others place it just above the bait. Some even try injecting the fluid into the squid bait—though I'm sure the manufacturer wouldn't be very happy with that procedure. Lines are set at varying depths from 30' to 120' or 150'—rarely deeper. While there is still some question as to just how important the night stick is to success with swordfish at night, there is no question but that it helps the captain keep track of his baits; and also in determining where the line is on a pick-up.

Heavy tackle is standard for this fishing, even though the size of the fish doesn't require it. Remember that you're fishing at night, and that involves several problems not encountered during the day. Most important is the fact that it is very difficult to follow the line. Boats that are serious about this sport rig up with floodlights to overcome this problem. Otherwise, you'll need someone assigned to train a spotlight on the line at all times. Ironically, pitch dark can be even better. When I fought my big swordfish in Ecuador, the fight carried on into the night. Without even a flashlight aboard, we were in real trouble at dusk. The mate had to lean over the side and continually point out the direction of the line to the captain. However, when total darkness arrived on that moonless night the elimination of all lights aboard enabled the captain to follow the fish from the bridge by watching the line cutting through the phosphorescence. The thirty pound line lit up to such an extent that it looked like a hawser cutting through the water!

Another difficulty with light tackle at night is the depth of the water you're fishing in. Swordfish will often sound to great depths, and with light tackle you may never get them back up again. Therefore, eighty pound gear is the logical choice for night fishing, though some fishermen even go to 130 lb. Squid is the generally accepted bait, though swordfish aren't normally fussy eaters when they're feeding. I understand that the longliners up here usually bait with mackerel. Double hooking is important due to the swordfish's soft mouth. A long dropback is required for the same reason. In Florida, night swordfishermen discovered that they did not have much trouble with sharks as long as they stayed in deep water. If the wind pushes you over the edge, sharks are likely to give you a hard time. Therefore, if you have a wind condition that will push you inshore during the night, run a little further off before starting your drift. Most fishermen use heavy mono leaders so hooked sharks will cut them off, but you'd be surprised at the number of sharks that get hooked in the corner of the mouth and never do cut through.

Now that we know how to catch swordfish with reasonable consistency at night during the summer, it's time to try some other things. As previously mentioned, there's no reason why the season has to be so short. This technique should work as well in June, September, and October—probably even November. How about day fishing on the bottom along the edge of the shelf. We know the foreign trawlers catch them, so it may be good to try it in the vicinity of such trawling. One potential problem: those trawlers also come up with some big hammerheard sharks! Finally, how about night fishing on the shelf. We've established a good pattern on those fish feeding around the Canyons, but it seems unlikely that a swordfish sunning himself off Shinnecock is going to swim fifty miles of more back to deep water every night. It will take some time and effort to pinpoint concentrations, but I expect that one of these days we'll be able to drift for swordfish at night a lot closer to shore.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is well along the road in its preparation of a swordfish management plan. A description of the fishery was prepared by a contractor, though further work is being held up while arrangements are being made to analyze the American Swordfishing Association data. Working in consultation with the other interested councils (New England, Mid-Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean), the South Atlantic Council hopes to complete work on this project as quickly as possible, and put into effect whatever measures may be required to stabilize the population and ensure a viable commercial and sport fishery well into the future. It seems pretty clear now that mercury or no, the swordfish will always be among the most valuable of food fish and the sportsman's greatest prize.

The Canyons may be slightly crowded this summer as more private boats gear up for the overnight fishing and many charters start specializing in the sport. However, with ever-increasing commercial pressure on the species, there's no time like the present to try hooking into the fish of a lifetime. If you see another boat drifting along out there this summer, give a yell—I just might be aboard!

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WEST END STRIPERS

by Ron Onorato

When the stocks of striped bass were at fairly abundant levels, it was not uncommon to be able to start serious bass fishing for smaller bass around the beginning of May and begin looking for bigger fish around the middle of the month. Today, looking for small fish is almost a total waste of time, and the period with which to start fishing for bigger fish is limited to just a couple of weeks. It used to be that Sandy Hook would get things rolling with the first few big fish. After the main schools arrived around the end of May, there would be a couple of weeks of productive fishing at the Hook. The fish would then spread out along the beaches of Rockaway and Long Beach and the jetty fishermen would have another couple of weeks of good fishing. By the end of June, the fish will have moved off the beach and into the bays where they will then have fed throughout much of the summer months. All of this is changed today. For the past few springs, Sandy Hook and other related areas have been very poor as far as big fish go. The jetties of Rockaway and Long Beach have equally dismal records as far as productivity goes. With the exception of the Tin Can Grounds and the Roamer Shoals area, the entire New York Bight area has not had decent fishing in many a spring. The emphasis has shifted from the Ocean bass fishing, to bay, inlet, and bridge fishing with live bait. With this shift, many bass fishermen have adapted to accommodate the fish in their new environs.

For whatever reasons, the bass have found an ample amount of forage available around many of the South Shore bridges and inlet areas, and this is where they have set up shop. This could be due to changing patterns of bait supply, shifts in the structure of the ocean feeding areas, or simply a means of avoiding polluted waters, especially when the contaminated material affects the bottom structure of the area. Bass are creatures of habit, and they will usually return to the same feeding grounds each year unless some environmental condition is altered. It should also be pointed out that big bass have been feeding in the bay and inlet areas for many years, but have received the attention only recently. It has been suggested by many South Shore bass fishermen that the proliferation of gill nets along the beaches have detoured the fish from the beach areas and sent them along an offshore migration path, and what fish do not migrate to more northerly waters, then shoot right into the bays where they will then spend their summer. It is an interesting theory that might have some merit.

By far and away, the many bridges that span the South Shore waterways from East Rockaway Inlet all the way to the Robert Moses Causeway get the heaviest play from the striped bass fishermen, and at times, these fishermen do extremely well with good numbers of big fish. The reason that the big bass find the bridges a prime feeding area is evident. Bass are, for the most part, structure feeding fish. This means that the fish prefer some sort of bottom or ground structure that they find suitable as a feeding zone. A rock pile on an otherwise even bottom, a small depression, some wooden piles in the middle of a channel, a quick dropoff or a high ridge are all examples of what are considered good structures for foraging bass. The fish usually lie on the down-tide side of these structures and wait for the steaming currents to carry their prey to them. The only time the fish will abandon these structures is when the bait supply dries up or they forage directly near schools of bait fish such as bunker or mullet. From this we can see that the South Shore bridges are perfect structures for the bass to feed at.

The bridges that are the most productive seem to be the ones closest to the inlets themselves. The Atlantic Beach Bridge that spans Reynold's Channel near the mouth of East Rockaway Inlet is one of the better producers, as are the Wantagh Causeways that span the State Boat Channel not too far from the mouth of Jones Inlet. When the tide gets started in these areas, it can move along at a good three or four knots, and that is pretty fast water. The bass, however, are not deterred by the fast water, but are just getting going when the tide starts to snort. While this fast tide might be good for the bass, it can be a little hard for the fishermen who are trying to fish the bridges during this fast water period. With this in mind, most of the productive fishing time occurs at the later stages of the tide and just before and after the slack water periods. At times, the actual period of slack water will have some reasonably good periods of fast fishing action.

There are numerous types of bait that can be used by those fishing

around the bridges, but for the most part, three different types of bait are used primarily: live eels, small blackfish and small bunkers are the big three in the bait department. Of the three, the baby blackfish is perhaps the most effective to use when fishing directly in and near the bridge supports. Virtually all of the bridges along the South Shore hold varying amount of blackfish and needless to say, the bass are not likely to pass them up. The bunker and the eel will also work to a lesser degree when fishing around the bridges in the early part of the season. It is the old theory of matching the hatch, that must once again be employed with bass fishing. If the blackfish are plentiful along a certain structure, then a small blackfish should be used. By the same token, if schools of bunker are flipping in the same general area as the bridge, then it would be foolish not to use a freshly snagged bunker. If neither the bunker nor the blackfish is available, then it would pay you to try the live eel.

Of these baits, the blackfish is about the only one that you might have a little trouble in obtaining. You can easily purchase a night's supply of eels or a day's supply of bunker, but blackfish are a little harder. What this usually entails is going out the day before the bassing trip and sitting on some local rock pile or jetty and catching a dozen or so half-pound baits. Then you have the problem of keeping them alive until they are ready to be fished. What a lot of serious bass fishermen have been doing is making up some sort of floating live bait well that is kept at the dock and loaded with small blackfish to be used as the need arises. It is a lot of trouble, but is worth the effort when the end results are weighed.

While the blackfish is used primarily during the daylight and morning hours, the bunker can be used effectively day or night under almost any conditions. The eel is almost exclusively a nighttime bait that has some success on cloudy and rainy days. Its effectiveness diminishes sharply on clear, sunny days, although at dawn and dusk it can produce. On clear days, the bunker seems to draw the best results, while darker days seem to favor the blackfish a bit. Again, these are just observations that can be contradicted by other variables in the course of the fishing.

As mentioned earlier, the most productive fishing times seem to be around the change of the tide. This is not due to any feeding preference of the fish, but rather the practicality of the fishing technique itself. It is just not feasible to swim those live baits when the tide is steaming along; you have to wait until it slows down a little.

The blackfish and bunker are rigged in pretty much the same manner as far as the terminal rigging goes. A one or two ounce drail is attached to the terminal end of the mono line you are using, and to the other end of the drail a three or four foot leader of fifty pound mono is attached. A 3/0 treble hook is then attached to the other end of the mono leader. To this, the live blackfish or bunker is then attached, usually by hooking the bait once through the lips or once through the skin just behind the dorsal fin. This same rig is used to fish the live eels, except that in place of the treble hook, a 5/0 Eagle Claw hook is used. The eel is hooked once through the upper jaw and out through one of the eye sockets. It is virtually impossible to pull the eel off the hook when rigged in this manner.

Bass are territorial creatures, and while the entire length of a bridge span might seem the same, to the bass it is not. Only certain portions of the bridge will hold fish and it is up to you to find out what these spots are. Usually the way to approach a bridge for the first time is to make several long drifts throughout the entire span. You simply pull the boat up-tide of the bridge supports and make drifts back to the bridge until you are just at the edge of the supports. Repeat this process until the entire length of the bridge has been covered on the up-tide side of the bridge. If this has not been productive, then move on to the down-tide side of the bridge, and begin making drifts on that side until something is forthcoming. You simply pull the boat up to the bridge supports and drift back until you are a couple of hundred feet away from the bridge. Just because you get no life doesn't necessarily mean you are doing something wrong. Often there are no fish at the particular bridge you are fishing or perhaps the fish are there and not feeding, and more commonly, heavy boat traffic might have put the fish down. If, after an hour or so of drifting you get no life, it might pay to move on to another bridge. If you get a hit or a runoff, or you have the bait chased to the surface, then it pays to stay at that spot until throughout the course of the tide change. Usually you'll nail a fish or two if you get some life at a particular location.

The live bait is fished free spool and drifted along near the bottom as the boat is carried by the tide. You simply peel out 75' to 100' of mono line and keep the reel out of gear the length of the drift. The fish will sometimes take the bait deep without much fanfare, or will tease and tantalize the bait by chasing it up and down the surface before it takes the bait. When this happens, it is simply a matter of feeding the fish line until you have determined that the bait has been swallowed by the bass. Time lapse will range anywhere from five to ten seconds, depending on how fast you count.

(Continued on page 52.)

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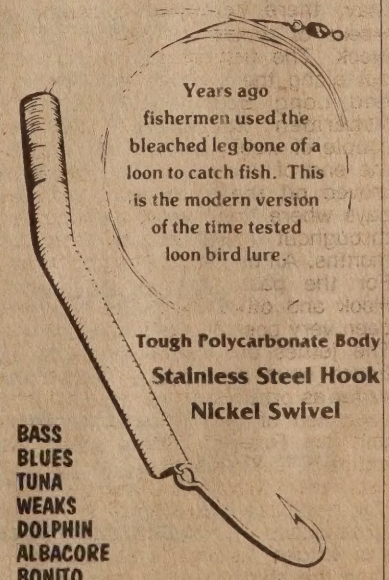

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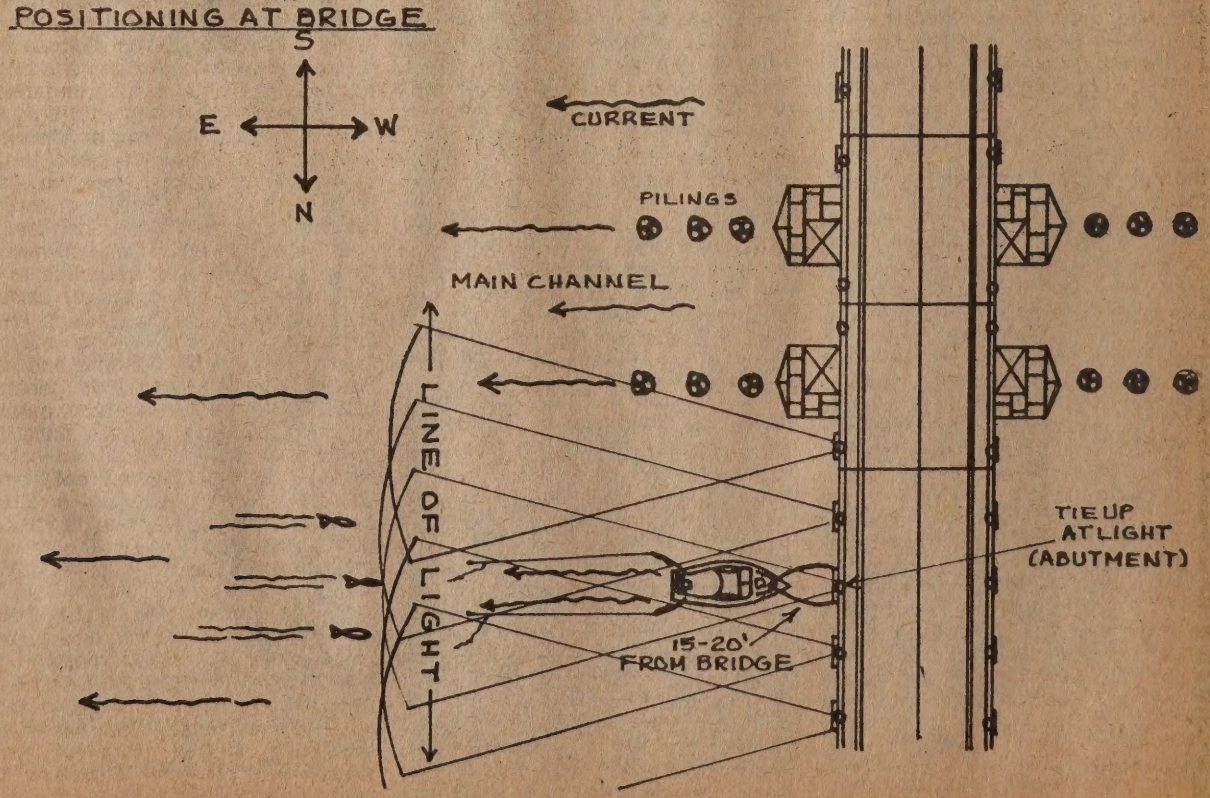
Night Bridge WEAKFISHING

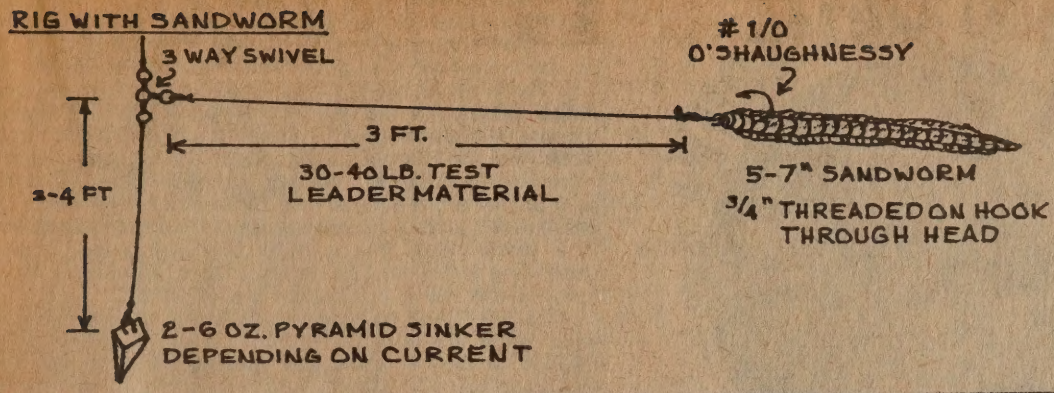
by John V. Konior

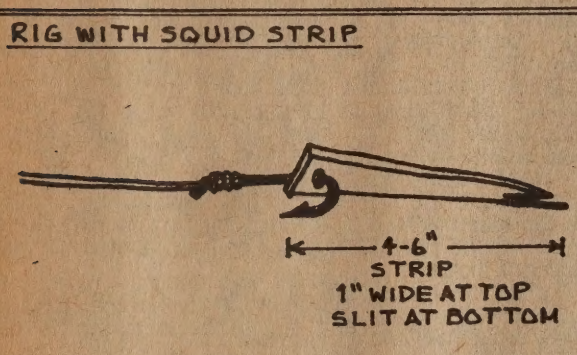
Weakfishing in South Bay waters has been a mixed experience. During the last few years, I've run into feast or famine situations, depending on the circumstances. Being based in Seaford, I've ventured out to Captree, off Fire Island, and Jones Inlet in question of this favorite of mine, and have plied the causeway bridges often. Most of this fishing, alas, has been during the day and all too frequently on weekends due to the bane of holding down a job from Monday through Friday. The sad part about all this is that due to boat traffic experienced on the weekends, productive fishing time is all too limited, with the best results occurring in the very early morning before boat traffic gets out of hand. This disadvantage is further aggravated by other circumstances. Whereas the early spring run is generally the best, as the season wears into the late summer, results on the negative side closely follow in a seemingly direct proportion to the increased boat traffic and the general scattering of the fish. Couple this seeming problem with what appears to be a conscious effort on the part of the weakfish to join forces with tackle manufacturers in their endless array of new hot lures. Despite my avocation for bringing a countless variety of lures in unlimitless sizes, shapes and colors, plus bait, far too often the weaks will be hitting on only one kind of contraption, and once again far too often on what I didn't manage to bring along. Does this sound familiar? Last year, red jelly worms with white streamers did the trick; the year before Salty Dogs, etc., etc. What happened to good old sandworms or squid? Well, I think I found the answer—particularly in the late summer and into the fall.

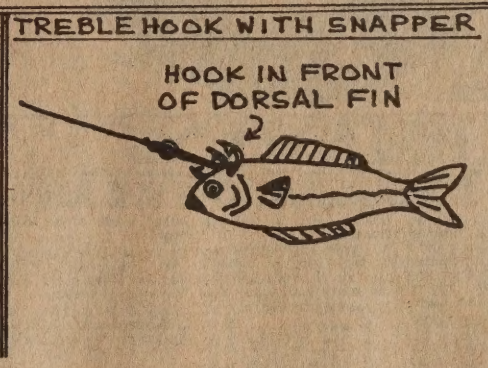
Call it a compromise, but the last few years I finally got fed up with all the rigmarole and started fishing the causeway bridges at night. Depending on the weather forecast, which really didn't influence my decision too much since I ended up fishing in the rain around seventy per cent of the time regardless of the forecast, I made it a point to get out on either Friday or Saturday evening each weekend. Fishing a bridge at night is quite a different experience compared to day fishing, so before I get involved with discussing fishing techniques and results, first some advice on tying up and equipment. To start with, bring along rain gear and some warm clothing regardless of the weather forecast. A good box lunch and some hot beverage is also recommended. Also bring: a strong lantern (spot beam) for finding your way; a stationary lantern (Coleman or battery), required when you're at anchor and to see what you're doing; a large fish net and/or gaff; fifty to seventy-five feet of half-inch nylon or hemp lines; an anchor; an ice chest full of ice, and a radio with weather band and a CB if you own one. Oh, one other item—a can of insect repellant.

If you're planning to spend the night, as I do, then also be aware that you're going to have to switch









positions when the tide turns. This can be as many as three times, depending upon what time you arrive at the bridge. I like to get out to the bridge by 7PM; earlier if the tide is changing around that time. Whenever I go out I bring another fisherman along since tying up is tricky at best and extremely difficult if you're by yourself. I approach the bridge from down-current (heading into the current). I usually pick out an abutment midway between the center of the bridge and the shore, with a tendency to fish towards the northern-most shore line. I also look for an abutment with a bridge light directly overhead to aid in seeing. With my partner at the bow handling the line, and me handling the boat and the spot beam, I guide the boat alongside an abutment, holding the position. One end of the line is tied to a bow cleat. My partner then swings the open end of the line around the abutment (this is more easily accomplished if the end of the line is weighted). Once the line is around the abutment, I back off the bridge slowly and my partner secures the loose end of the line to the bow cleat, having backed off ten to fifteen feet. Some adjustment in distance from the bridge may be required to compensate for the wind, if any. My fishing position is then down-current (with the current). I wouldn't recommend tying up between abutments as I'm sure you've seen some fishermen do. It's both dangerous and illegal. At this point, I turn on the stationary lantern and I'm ready to fish. One other point. Your anchor is security in the event of a breakdown, etc. Don't anchor at the bridges unless you intend to lose the anchor on a cable or other obstruction.

One thing that's immediately apparent is the solitude. As the evening wears on, fewer and fewer boats pass, replaced by other fishermen tying up at the bridge. It's quiet and peaceful in general and the day-to-day humdrum is soon forgotten. I often wonder in retrospect why I didn't try this kind of fishing sooner. So much for the reverie and on to the important facts.

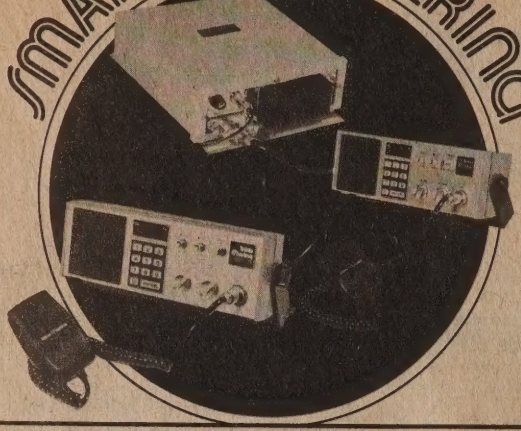
I have found that the most productive fishing time is two hours before tide change and two hours after. I have had the most success, however, fishing the high tides. I have observed that many fishermen time their arrival to the tide change and leave shortly thereafter. I suppose this is logical and the most productive in terms of fishing time, but I like to stick it out until dawn.

As it begins to darken, the bridge lights will take hold casting a light barrier onto the water. It has been my experience that by maintaining your bait at the edge of this line results are better. The light line is usually thirty to forty feet beyond the bridge. This fact seems to bear some logic. It appears that the weakfish lie in wait on the dark side of this bank, their eyes focused on the upcoming run of bait which has been plunged into turbulence by the rush of the current among the bridge abutments, and the fact that the bait is disorientated by the difference in being plunged from dark into light and back again. The bait (fish, worms) are thus at the mercy of the waiting weakfish. It sounds like a good theory, and whether right or wrong there seems to be a correlation, since I have caught the majority of my fish right at that imaginary line. Keeping your bait at that imaginary line is quite another matter. You will need to maintain sufficient sinker weight to get your line to the bottom and to hold it at the bottom relatively close to the boat regardless of current strength. This is easier said than done and often impossible, and may be another explanation why the two hours before and after a tide change are best since the current is generally slowest at these points. I have found that pyramid sinkers perform best instead of bank sinkers since they tend to dig in. You will find it necessary to change sinkers often in conjunction with the current, either placing more weight as the current picks up, or lighter weights when the reverse is true. The one factor that upsets the applecart is seaweed. When it's in full bloom, forget it, or be prepared to clean off your line constantly.

Now, on to tackle and rigging. I like to bring along two rigs: one spinning, the other standard. I use a seven foot spinning rod (medium action), medium reel, loaded with 200 yards of good quality twelve to fifteen pound test mono. For the standard rig I use a six foot medium boat rod, and a Penn Squidder loaded with twenty-five pound test mono. I generally fish with one rod, using the spinning rig when currents are light and the

(Continued on next page.)

SMART ENGINEERING



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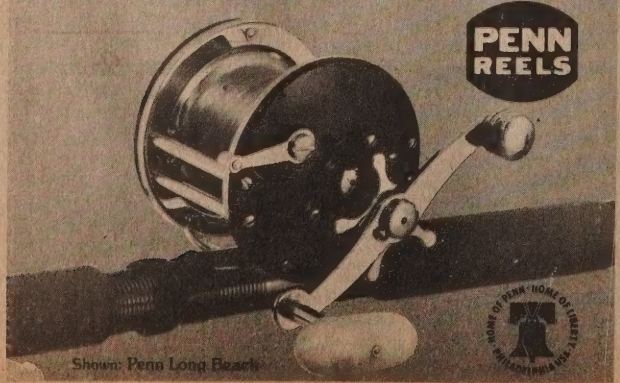

Shown: Penn Long Beach

standard rig when currents are strong or when there's a lot of weed in the water. In either case, I set the drag very light. Those of you who have caught weakfish know how soft their mouths are, and a tightly set drag will almost always result in a lost fish when hooked lightly.

My terminal rig is quite simple. I use a three-way swivel attached to the line from three to four feet above the sinker. To the swivel I attach a single snelled hook three feet in length using forty pound test leader material. It's important that you use stiff leader material as it prevents line tangle. The three-way swivel tends to prevent line and/or hook twist. My favorite hook pattern is a nickel-plates #1 or #1/0 O'Shaughnessy, larger depending on the size of the fish. Other acceptable hook patterns are 1/0 or 2/0 Eagle Claw or Sproat.

Earlier, I had complained about the proliferation of lures. With this style of fishing, I resort to three baits: large sand worms, squid and snappers. I have had my most success with sand worms in general, with live snappers doing best in the early fall. During the early fall, I get out early, pick up some snappers and keep them alive in a bait well. When I use snappers, I occasionally substitute a treble hook for the single hook, hooking the snapper in front of the dorsal fin. When using sand worms, I insert the barb approximately three-quarter inches into the head of the worm, leaving the rest to trail. When using squid, I cut same into strips four to six inches in length, around one inch at the top tapering to a V, which I also slit to gain some action. In any case, I fish these baits at least three feet above the sinker.

Weakfishing is both fun and at the same time, exasperating. Usually weakfish hits are characterized by a very strong rap and an immediate run. It's during this time that they are exciting to catch, but at the same time, easy to lose since they are often poorly hooked. At this point a light drag is extremely important. Let the fish run and don't try to horse it in. Let it tire itself out and bring it to the boat. Don't under any circumstances attempt to lift it in the boat. Use the net or gaff. And don't underestimate the fish at the boat. Far too many fish are lost because the fisherman thinks that the fish is tired and loses it right at the boat. I know—I've been guilty of it. The other type of hit involves a soft rap. It's at this time that the fish are wary and nibble at the bait. This is particularly true when using sandworms for bait. The tendency here is to pull the bait away. Don't! If you do you will reel up a half worm. Let the fish nibble. The tugs will increase in intensity as the fish mouths it and passes it down to its stomach. It's a good idea at this point to actually slacken the line or drop the rod tip. When you feel the third tug, set the hook sharply, but not like you're fishing for cod or blackfish. A simple, quick lift of the rod and your fish is on its way. Here again, let it run and tire itself out. You'll find when you net it, it's usually deep-hooked. Once you've landed your fish, place it on ice immediately. Weakfish flesh is soft and spoils quickly. I like to fill my cooler with saltwater and ice. The fish are well preserved and are not slimy when you get them home.

I noted previously that night fishing for weaks at the bridges has become my favorite method for fishing them. I have found that the latter part of July, with improving results into August and peaking in September. However, I've caught them at the bridges in June and last year well into October. While I have tried virtually all the causeway bridges, I have found that the third (most southern) Wantagh and Meadowbrook bridges have yielded the best results. Furthermore, I've done best on the flood tide at the Meadowbrook and the ebb tide at the Wantagh. Keep your eyes and ears posted to The Fisherman, local papers and bait shops for reports of where action has been best.

Remember to come prepared and bring plenty of bait. My results to date have been very encouraging. These night fish are real tiderunners. The smallest fish is in the five pound range and I've taken a few in the twelve pound range, and they are beautiful and a thrill to catch and behold. I'm looking forward to another season and hope to see you there.

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

Captain Mike Albonda of the charter boat **Montauk** reports that on Thursday and Friday on an overnighter his charter accounted for over 30 blue shark and brown shark up to 200 lbs. On Saturday, they had a 332 lb. mako which was hooked and landed by Bill Maselli. Mike asked us to tell you he still has a few overnighter dates available but call quickly.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** reports excellent cod-fishing at Coxes Ledge, with really fabulous catches of mixed size cod being caught. In the world of porgies, things have been excellent fishing off Gardiner's Island for porgies up to 4 lbs. Paul characterized the fluking as good and all fish are keepers, no midgets.

Two trophy sharks hang from the gin pole of Capt. Warren Hader's charterboat *Devilfish*—a 414-lb. dusky and a 144-lb. mako.

Captain Frank Maccaro of the charter boat **Free Spirit** called to say Saturday's charter for Jeff Cantor saw Jeff bag a 215 lb. mako. No blue shark were taken but they did see loads of whales in the area. On Sunday's charter, a 200 plus lb. blue shark was boated. The blue sharks have slowed but some good sized makos are being caught. The entire offshore fishing scene remains 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule and this should be a great year for offshore Montauk fishing. Frank says there's no trouble getting gas for your trip home since there is gas at West Lake Fishing Lodge where he docks, so come on out where the action is. A true albacore, a solid month early for the area was brought in by a private boat.

Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** reported the boats in the marina are picking up plenty of porgies, weakfish and blues on the north side of Gardiner's, jigging for the weaks and blues. Fluking at Gin Beach up to Shagwong has been good on bid sand eels and strip baits.

Captain Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** and party of five led by Ted Golleatz of Brooklyn caught 311 porgies from 1-2½ lbs. fishing Gardiner's Island on Friday with clam. Saturday's party led by Fred Johnson of the NYC Transit Authority boated 219 porgies fishing the same area on clam.

Captain Richie Rade called to report that the **Marlin V** is fishing for porgies and sea bass off Gardiner's Island and has started to do very well. The weekend high hook was 36 porgies and all fares are averaging at least 30-40 a day. The **Marlin IV** is doing well half-day fluking, two trips daily. Both runs are producing. The boat is starting night bluefishing by the time you read this, and is sailing every night at 7PM for the Montauk meat grinders.

Doug Oakland with the 175-lb. swordfish he took on rod and reel last week fishing aboard Capt. Gene Kelly's charterboat *Sea Doll* off of Montauk at the Fingers.

Charter boat **Adios** reports that Tom and Louise Shaw of the Focus Disco on Long Island on Wednesday had 27 blue shark and hooked into one small white shark estimated at 300-350 lbs. which broke off after a 15 minute battle. Captain Phil Lewis did not sail over the weekend because of the "gas shortage". Pumps were open during certain hours and gas generally was more available than last weekend.

Captain Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devilfish** seems to be having great difficulty in catching sharks that weigh less than 400 lbs. On Saturday, Warren surpassed last weekend's catch of a 400 lb. mako by taking a 414 lb. dusky and a mako of 144 lbs. in the Butterfish Hole. Richard Harris of Rochester was the angler. Warren said that luck was on his side Sunday and the

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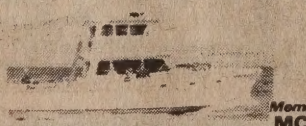

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charter aboard didn't have to wear themselves out on any fish over 400 lbs., with only smaller blue sharks being taken by the boats fishing the Butterfish Hole. Highlight of the day, however, was a huge school of giant sperm whales that came around the boat and were moving east. Warren said that he counted over 30 and the whales were being followed by hundreds of birds.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** has been making what passes for exceptional striped bass catches this year. On Friday the charter took 6 bass, score on Saturday was 7 bass and another 5 bass on Sunday. John said that he has also been porgy fishing during the lulls and taking between 100 and 150 lbs. of jumbo porgies up to 3

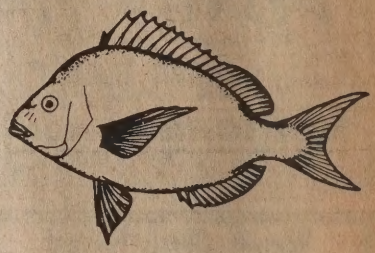
Shown here is a 215-lb. mako caught on the charterboat *Free Spirit* Saturday. Also shown is a true albacore which was taken on another boat.

lbs. and more.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the first swordfish was brought into the Star Island Yacht Club on Saturday. The 297 lb. billfish was harpooned by Bill Carlson on his boat "San Dee Cee" out of New Haven, Ct. Henry said that the boat "Cutlet" and the "Aquaholic" both trolled some football tuna at the Fingers. Henry said that some bass are being taken, but only by the real sharpies. He also told us that he just received a large supply of the hard to get clam bellies from a secret source.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that "fishing at Gardiner's Island continues from good to very good for us and catches in the sixties to eighties are now being made by some anglers. The fish are now medium size, a sign that the summer run is on." The high hook on Sunday was 87 porgies and anglers are taking a few blackfish and flounder mixed in thier catches.

Steve Piselli brought this 179 lb. mako to gaff aboard the Mako Express. Photo courtesy of Westlake Fishing Lodge.



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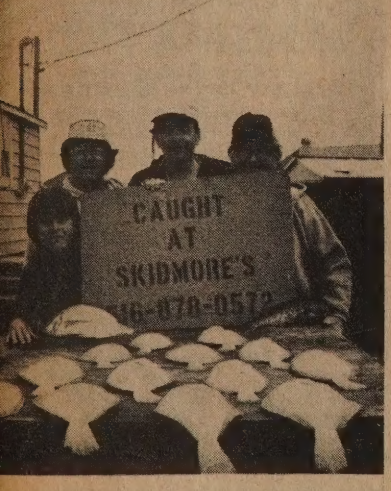
SHINNECOCK

The **Captain Clark Boats** reports the arrival of the summer run of Peconic weaks. Sunday saw the **Captain Clark** load up with 137 weaks for 9 fares. Al Fishlein and Stacey Zurek of Bellmore had 36 weaks from 1½-3 lbs. Raymond Challita of Elmhurst had over 25 weaks himself with porgies and several blackfish mixed in. Sand worms accounted for the weakfish. The weakfishing is right on schedule says the captain and he feels we are in for another great summer of weakfishing in the Peconics, particularly at Middle Grounds.

MORICHES BAY

Captain Fred of the charter boat **Seamist**, a memeber of the Moriches charter boat association reports sharks and bluefish are both in heavy off Moriches. Fred had a charter out from Computer Data Control and they enjoyed constant action from bluefish aside from boating and then releasing 5 blue shark.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reports there are fluke in the Elbow and at buoy 38 and 39 and at the Flats by the Coast Guard Station. There are also 1-3 lb. bluefish at the Elbow. Most fluke are averaging



John, Wayne, and Darren Kropp along with Al Kmitis totaled 13 keeper fluke, a 2½ lb. porgy and a 2 lb. sea bass fishing in buoy 42-43 area of Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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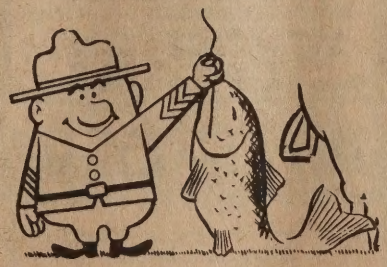

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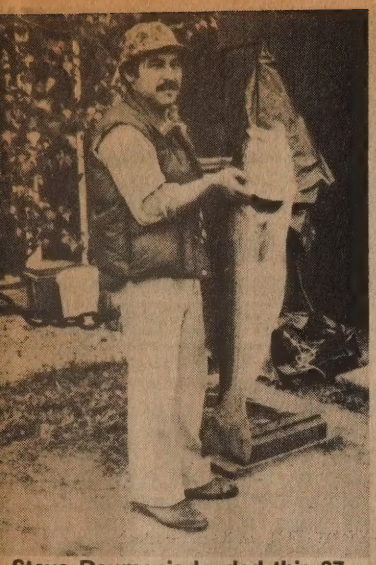

Steve Doumanis landed this 37 lb. striper inside Shinnecock Inlet. Photo courtesy of Corr's Mariner's Cove.

etween 2-3⅓ lbs. with very few rowbacks. Dave Roys of Bellport ad 22 keeper fluke to 4 lbs. 2 oz. shing buoy 39 with sand eel-squid ombos. J. J. DeVita of Brooklyn, ge 6, had 2 fluke of 2¾ lbs. and ½ lbs. on Sunday at buoy 38.

East Moriches Bait and Tackle forms us Walter Szalankiewicz on aturday took 23 keeper fluke up to bs. fishing just east of buoy 42 sing sand eel-squid combos on coming tide. Walter and John ePasquale fishing in 85' of water outheast of Moriches Inlet trolled mbrellas taking 42 choppers from 15 lbs. on Sunday.

This 12 lb. doormat fluke was taken by Nick DelRossi, Jr. (right) on a trolled umbrella rig off of Ocean Beach. His father, Nick, Sr., assisted in the catch. Fish was weighed at J&J Bait and Tackle in Patchogue.

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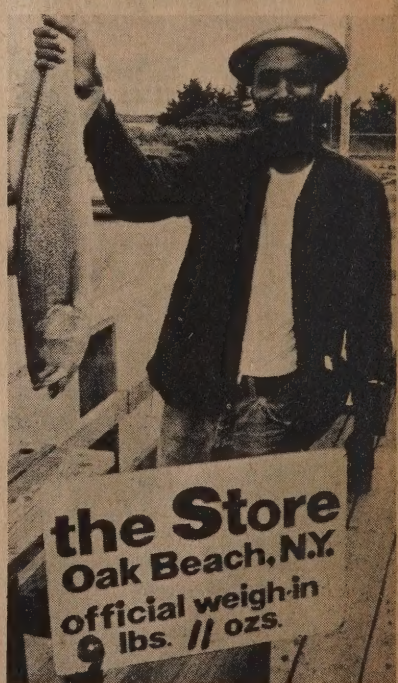
Gary at **Stiriz' Fishing Station** reports catches of 2-3 lb. bluefish are fantastic from buoy 17 to the bridge with fish being caught from 30-35 per boat, best catches being made on Capt. Bill rigs. Blue claw crabs are in good numbers in rings and traps. Fluking is only fair but the fish are large. One small boy took an 8 lber this week, catches on live killies and squid, sand eels and spearing.

WEST SAYVILLE

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports there are fluke and small weakfish to be had at buoy 12 at Cherry Grove and at buoy 17 on squid, sand eels and killies. Small bluefish are being taken at Browns River between Sayville and Barrett Beach.

Jack of the **American Sportsman Shop** told us that small bluefish are still roaming around the Range Channel area. This fishing is hit or miss, it is either very good or very bad. Jack knew of bass being taken



Arnold Best took this 9 lb. 11 oz. tiderunner on a squid strip during incoming water on the north side of Oak Beach. Photo courtesy of The Store.

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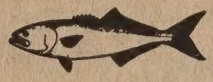

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produced fluke. A lot of small blues at Fair Harbor plus 8-10 lb. weakfish at the Fair Harbor Pole, This has been on umbrellas, jelly worms and sand worms. Blacks and sea bass have been falling to squid and clam bait under the Moses Bridge. Good catches of blues from the head buoy to the inlet Sunday, fish 3-5 lbs. on umbrellas. Some bass on live eels and also for clam chummers under the last Moses bridge.

CAPTREE

Captain Roy Mazziotta of the charter boat **Blue Albatross** called to report that Sunday fluking improved again as 20 members of the Smith Haven Lodge Knights of Pythias boated 66 keeper fluke up to 3 lbs. working in the channel. Roy says other boats caught at Saltair. On Saturday a 15 man charter decked 40 keeper fluke all on killies.

The Captain Richie reports fluking has been okay this week and weekend from the inlet to ocean beach. Richie says there are patches of fish that you come across on both tides with an occasional really good sized fish. This is all on sand eels.

Captain Walter on the **Lady Ann** tells of 40-80 keeper fluke per charter trip, with fish mostly 2-4 lbers. on spearing, sand eels, killie and squid. Catches are mostly in the back bays including Snake Hill, west and east channels. There are also some blacks and sea bass on the ocean reef but in no great numbers.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** tells us fluking is spotty

14-year-old Yvonne Mercier gets a hand from her father Pete as they display the young lady's first bass ever. The big striper checked in at 42 lbs. 7 oz. It was taken in F.I. Inlet. Photo courtesy of Augie's Bait and Tackle.

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★FLUKE★FLUKE★FLUKE★

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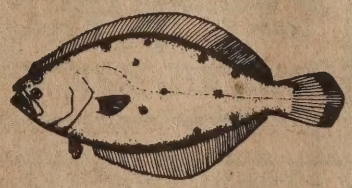

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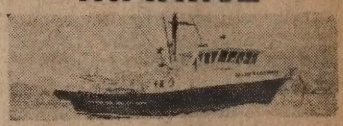
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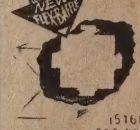

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ith catches ranging from 2-6 fish a an but these numbers could take n upturn at any time. In addition to ne two daily fluke sailings, the boat ill also be sailing for bluefish every ight at 8PM with the exception of Monday nights. See ad for details.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **peedy VI** reports excellent bluefish-g Saturday night off Patchogue each fairly close in. "A slaughter" says Audrey Hubert, Speedy's ife. On Sunday, 20 fares had 100 luefish. It's all bait at night while ay fishing is green bananas and amond jigs. Friday was their only oor day. All this fishing has been cal, a little to the east.

L.I.F. extends congratulations to Ir. and Mrs. Ben Litwin of the boat the same name as they happily elebrate their 42nd Wedding Anni-ersary. Wewish them both another xciting 42 years of fishing together.

BABYLON

Dolores at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** lls us that Al Giglio, Joe Kosta nd son Tom, along with Vinnie lazza took 12 good fluke up to 5 s. 4 oz. using bunker chum with and eels-squid combos on the hook shing at Kismet on Friday. A lot of 2 lb. blues at the inlet for boaters nd surf casters hitting just about nything. Weakfish are being trolled o on umbrellas off the lighthouse,

Young Stacey Miller of Smokey's Bait and Tackle displays the brook and rainbow trout she caught at Connetquot River State Park.

fish in the 5-7 lb. range along with small blues. Tubes of all colors are working. Very small snappers at the town dock on Wednesday Paul Krauss livelined a 24 lb. 7 oz. striper fishing off Kismet. Lots of blue claw crabs at the town dock of good size in nets.

Babylon Fishing Station reports fluke remain to be caught in the State Channel. One of their skiffs returned with 6 on Sunday. Rental skiffs are averaging 3-6 fish a boat on live killies or sand eel-squid combos.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

COPIAGUE

Bait and Tackle Unlimited reports fluke fair in the State Channel from the Babylon Cut to the east end on sand eels and spearing. Some weaks off the Lighthouse and Inlet on Salty Dogs and jellies. Small blues from the inlet to the Lighthouse on tins and tails. Large blues to 12 lbs. in 110' to 160' of water on butterfish and chum. Mako and blue shark in 150-160' of water southeast of Fl Inlet. Jack Fugit, Kevin King, Ed Forrester and Roy Johnson weighed in 3 blue sharks in 100 lb. area on their first crack at shark fishing. The Daiwa factory display is here till about July 12 to show you a complete breakdown of their Sea Line reels.

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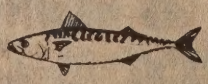

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tells us fluke have moved up into the bays with catches being in east and west channel, Unqua Point, Fort Neck Point and West Island, best results by anchoring up and using bunker chum or a slow troll across the channel. Spearing or killie teamed up with squid strip has been working best. Two to three lb. blues are being taken on high hooks or on casted Rebels being thrown into breaking schools or under working birds. Good crabbing off the town docks and on the flats. A few small weakfish in the bay on worms. The 160' mark has been producing makos. Bluefish in 90' of water being chummed and umbrellaed. Small blues being taken off the lighthouse on trolled white and purple umbrellas.

SEAFORD

Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station reports fluking remains good to the tune of 5-20 keepers per rental boat. Some snapper blues being taken west of the Wantagh bridges. Both fluke and snappers are hitting sand eels or spearing.

Pop's Fishing Station reports fluking remains good as evidenced by the 30 fluke taken by Ed Becker and Dan Love, both retired fire officers, fishing west of the 1st and 2nd Wantagh bridges with sand eels Thursday. Larry Hall and 3 buddies took 17 fluke up to 4 lbs. at a secret hole. The fish were full of shrimp and small sea robins. John said the fish are sucking in bait, they are not whomping it.

BELLMORE

The singing dog at **Merrick Tackle** sings about a lot of big bass up to 40 lbs. that are being taken in the State Channel on live bunker in the early morning hours, pre-dawn and shortly thereafter. Quanties of fish are there. Live eels and clam chum is also accounting for stripers in this area.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that Monday through Friday fluking was good though it tapered off on the weekend. During the week there were a couple of catches in the twenties and one skiff had 24 fluke. Best areas this week have been Merrick Pt., Neds Creek and also a few taken at the southwest end of rowboat alley. Bass catches have been good all week in Haunts Creek at the black banks and in the State Channel for liveliners and also for clam chummers. Marty Bright of Bellmore took three bass of 13, 14 and 28½ lbs. fishing Haunts Creek with live bunker in the daytime. One to 2 lb. blues in Haunts Creek and at the mouth of Jones Inlet.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells us there was some good fluking over the weekend in Reynolds Channel, fish to 6 lbs., on killies, squid and smelts. Good catches are also made at the Lido Beach golf club. Small blues just outside the inlet on umbrellas from 1-1½ lbs. and also on the West Bar.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

FREEPORT

The Captain Al reports that now that the bluefish have come within striking distance he will be switching to blues 6:30 a.m. daily and 7PM daily.

The **Starstream II** reports good bluefishing Friday and Friday night. Saturday due to bad conditions and slowness of fares to drop their green bananas at the captain's signal resulted in light catches. Fish were marked, but fishermen were slow to react. Sunday Captain Richie Kessinger located many different bodies of bluefish and they picked away. Night trips have been better as the fish are more settled down and are easier to catch with chum and bait. More fish can be caught on the day trips if the passengers are at the rail, ready to let the bananas down as soon as the captain toots the horn, as he is stopping on fish. Your reporter sailed on Friday night's trip Virtually all fish were 9 lbers., as if they'd come out of a mold and approximately 150 fish were taken that night. At the wheel was Captain Chris Specht.

The **Capt. Bill** tells of fair fluking all week and weekend with morning trips better as the afternoon ebb tide was not conducive to fluke strikes. Things will change this coming week with the change in tides. A 4 lber. was boated by Rita Moss of Northport. Bill is fishing the back bays areas, all on sand eels and fluke belly. You get a lot fewer crabs using fluke belly rather than squid.

The **Capt. Hall** reports he's working the back area of Merrick and Freeport. Friday's high hook was 14 keeper fluke. Mel Gross of Long Beach bagged a 6½ lb. semi-doormat plus a few 3 and 4 lbers. Fluking has had its ups and downs

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this past week. Catches have been on sand eels and fluke belly.

Charter boat **Blue Fin II** called to report that Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday they had very good bluefish catches up to 15 lbs. fishing the west side of the Mud Hole. Captain Sy says this was all on green Avo bananas and they had excellent weather and fast fishing. Captain Charlie Adams on the **Blue Fin** also enjoyed very good bluefish jigging along the beach Saturday and Sunday for blues up to 4 lbs. on Avo A-27 jigs. Sy tells us that on Friday's trip on the BF II, a mako of an estimated 300 lbs. leaped from the water and attacked a bluefish that was being reeled in on the surface just 30' from the boat.

Charter boat **Shalidon** called and reported that on Saturday Jack Beader and party hooked and landed a 401 lb. mako which twice wrapped line around the shaft during a 1 hr and 15 minute battle. Finally at the boat, 3 gaffs were struck and the fish was finally hoisted to the top of the gin pole with its head still touching the water. The fish had two other hooks in its mouth from previous battles fought and won. The fish had taken 5 wild leaps and this was all off Moriches in 150' of water. Passenger Joe Flanagan is having a head mount made up and everyone took home big slabs of mako steak. At one time during the battle, Captain Arnold had to cut the line with the fish still on it and re-tie it to another setup as the fish was hung up on the shaft. Wow!

Bob at **Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle** reports lots of small blues at the mouth of the inlet on bunker chunks, fish ranging from 1-1½ lbs. Blues being trolled in 60' of water south of the inlet on umbrellas. Fluking has been good in Reynolds Channel and at the inlet on squid and sand eels. A couple of bass have been taken in the bay on live eels in the State Channel between Tobay and Gilgo. Some stripers and weakfish at the Meadowbrook bridge on live eels and live bunker 1½ hours on either side of the high.

Charter boat **The Rogue** called to tell us that Saturday's charter for Thomas Boland and crew had 1 blues from 2-4 lbs., a 6 lb weak and a sturgeon thanks to a hot tip from the Shalidon fishing 180° out of Jones in 50' of water. Sunday'

FREEPORT

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harter for Tim Funaro and company shed in 160' of water out of Jones nd bagged a 120 lb. blue shark, a) lb. brown shark. There was a iako in the slick that mate Neil alisher estimated to be over 400 s.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells of mall blues in the inlet in the iorning and evening hours on just out anything. Flounder still being aught in the deep spots of Swift reek on bloodworms.

Freeport Boatmen's Association eports the weekdays have been etter on fluke than the weekend nd that fish are in the back bay or the inlet depending on tide. On aturday, the **North Star** and **Corsair** ere catching 2-4 lb. blues in 50-70' water along with weakfish, all on reen bananas and diamond jigs. he weaks ran up to 8 lbs. Gary Iadeo and party fished aboard the orth Star. Sunday's trip for the **ite Owl II** for Walt Blair and party shed s/e of J.I. in 100' of water aking 150 8-12 lb. blues. High hook as 14 fish on bananas and also on ait and chum. Dr. Yeras and party shing on the **Big Foot** had 12 blue nark at the HA, keeping one, gging and releasing 11.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports he fluking has been just fair in ong Creek, at Guy Lombardo's and the inlet, boats averaging 6-10 sh. On Sunday, one rental returned ith 12 keeper fluke. A few blackfish the Meadowbrook and Long Creek ridges. Small blues at the inlet on ucktails in casted jigs. Three to five . blues being trolled south of the .I. buoy.

Captain Ken Brayshaw of the harter boat **Jackpot** called to tell us hat on Saturday with a couple of uddies aboard, he trolled up 30 lues in about two hours fishing outh of Jones Inlet. On Sunday, he eturned with a charter of Vincent ianciaruso, Raymond Vecchione nd Ed Dihlman, where they collect- d 60 big bluefish trolling in the ame area.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reported that uke action has slowed somewhat ut fair catches are still being made. eynolds Channel, from the Inlet to uoy 19 as well as the flats ordering the channel is the produc- ve area. On Saturday Ben and Izzie azach returned with 18 fluke taken n the Flats on sandeel and squid ombos. Incoming tide has been roducing the best fluke action and illies and squid also produce along ith the sandeel and squid combos. lackfish still at the bridges on iddler crabs and small bluefish aming the inlet being taken on ast tins.

Andy Chisolm of **Scotty's Marina** old us that some of the local oungsters have been putting a dent n the big bass population. Late last eek 15 yr. old Dave Noya clicked with a 44 lb. striper taken on an eel at Nassau Beach. Long Beach teenagers Leslie and Jill Reindfleisch took 5 bass from 14 to 28 lbs. in two days fishing live bunker along the beaches. Irv Grossman and John Smith returned Sunday morning with 360 lbs. of blues which weighed from 8 to 21 lbs. These fish were taken in 40' of water south of the Inlet on trolled umbrella rigs after which two anglers began taking the fish casting. The boat No Problem returned with 40 blues taken from the same area on cast plugs. They also had a 6 lb. bass in their catch. Fluke averaging 1½ lbs. being taken from the Pt. Lookout Bridge to the Inlet. While the fluking has slowed down considerably catches of 7 to 11 per boat are about average. One to three pound bluefish have been a daily occurence on the east side of the Inlet where they are being taken by casters using Hopkins and Kastmasters. Al Lintze returned with 37 of the scrappy fighters taken near the top of outgoing water. Andy relayed word that some big bass continue to be caught on live flounders near the Meadowbrook Bridge. He also knew that clam chummers have been averaging 8 to 10 fish a tide fishing on the east side of the VZ Bridge. Al Carrier of Brooklyn shipped a box of bass taken here on outgoing water late last week. George Thaten of Long Beach wondered over to the north shore and fished the Kings Point area where he took 7 bass from 5 to 12 lbs. on sandworms.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie of **Beckamann's Bait & Tackle** reported that a school of 3 to 4 lb. bluefish had been discovered in 40' of water off of Long Beach and Lido Beach. These fish are being taken on umbrella rigs. Fluke fishing has slowed down but some worthwhile scores are still being made on sandeel and squid combos. Sharpies continue to pick away at big bass at the bridges. Fish are being taken on live bait and clam bellies and for those looking for live eels, Charlie is well supplied.

Steve Weitzen called to report that Joe Masone's Debra fishing in 149' of water, 140° out of Debs had 3 blue shark to 125 lbs. on mackerel. Fishing were members of Tournament Anglers. On Sunday Fred Weitzen, Horace Graydon and Steve Weitzen fished Reynolds Channel taking 8 fluke to 4 lbs. with a 50/50 ratio of keepers on killies.

Captain Clem of the **Commodore** says that weekdays were good on fluke but the weekend was a little slow to the tune of 3-4 keeper fluke a man. The weekdays were very good in the back bays, hitting different patches of fish as the boat drifted. Some fish were also taken in the inlet. Wednesday was a super day with 40 fares taking nearly 300 fish. John Pleickhardt on Sunday took the pool for the 4th week in a row with the pool winner and 6 other keepers. Sand eels and spearing have been the bait.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reported that the winner of their June fluke contest was Louie Gropper with a 5 lb. flattie. Sal Correal leads the July contest at this early date with a 3 lb. fluke. Bonnie Radi checked in a 4½ lb. fluke on Saturday. Boats over the weekend averaged 10 to 12 of the summer flatfish apiece with killies and sand-

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WEST END STRIPERS

(Continued from page 31.)

The reel is then engaged and the fish hit hard with the rod and hopefully the hook will be set.

At times, the fish will spread out away from the bridges and can be found in deep holes and depressions at different parts of the inlets. A couple of years ago, there was a big run of fish at Fire Island Inlet at night on eels during the month of June. And virtually every summer there is a fair amount of big fish that will school up along with the bunker schools at different spots of Jones Inlet and along the State Boat Channel. Schools of bunker will be herded into a tight ball and every so often huge swirls will be seen as great fish come to the surface to grab an unfortunate bunker. When tight patches of bunker are encountered anywhere along the way, it always pays to spend some time fishing there, as the bass are not very far away from a ready source of available food. There are numerous areas all along the main channels of the South Shore that all have potential to hold fish, and this does not take into account many of the back creeks and marshes that seldom see the heavy boat traffic the main drags do.

A final word about this type of fishing. For the most part, the fishing will be best conducted during the night and early morning hours. The bass feed primarily during the evening hours and seem to finish up with one last shot just around the crack of dawn. If you can catch the tide right, have the right bait, and are at the right place just at the blush of the day, you will be treated to a spectacle that is for many of us, so uncommon.

eels and a strip of squid producing the best scores.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy of **Hennings Fishing Station** reported bluefish at the Inlet and also at the Tin Can Grounds. The fish are being taken on trolled umbrella rigs and on diamond jigs at the latter location. Some good fluke action took place at the Coast Guard Station on Friday but this dropped off on Saturday and Sunday. Killies, sandeels, spearing, and squid are all productive fluke baits. Bluefish in the 8 to 9 lb. class were discovered southeast of the NB Buoy in 75' of water over the weekend. These fish were taken on trolled umbrella rigs and 4 bonito were taken from the same area on the tubes lures. Weakfish in the 8 lb. class also on umbrellas at the Tin Can Grounds mixed with the bluefish.

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** reports he is still loading up on small blues from 3-5 lbs. average at Princess Bay, catching from 80 fish on up per trip on 3 oz. S&G Diamond Jigs. These bluefish are ranging up to 17 lbs. Norton's Point gave forth a 10 lb. weak on a trolled spoon. The Kim has started her offshore shark and tuna and Canyon trips. Ron has heard of a few big bass trolled in the Sandy Hook area, on red and white trolled Danny plugs on wire fishing in the Rips at night on incoming.

Larry at **Seaman's Bait** tells of plenty of blueclaw crabs both hard and soft and of good size in Jamaica Bay. Also plenty of sand porgies on sand and blood worms. The Marine Parkway Bridge has held good catches of fluke on sand eels. At the trestle bridge near the subway some small bass have been caught on grass shrimp as chum and three or four shrimp also on the hook along with a 1/2 oz. shot.

Lupo Baby Bunker Spoons produced this catch of 87 blues to 17 lbs. for Alan Solomon and Joe Koerner. Catch was made at Romer Shoals aboard the charterboat "Kim."

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** told of excellent fluke fishing on the average for the week. On Saturday, anglers enjoyed good fluke fishing with catches running 15-20 fluke per person in the 2-4 lb. range. These fish were taken along the Jersey Coast in places such as Sandy Hook Bay and Point and Romer Sholas on sand eels and spearing. Sunday's fishing was off with catches running in the 3-6 fish per person range.

The **Dorothy B** reported good fluke fishing up until Sunday. Thursday's high hook brought home 27 nice sized fish ranging from throwbacks to 4 lbs. The action is taking place in Sandy Hook Bay and other Jersey Coast areas. Best baits have been sand eels and spearing.

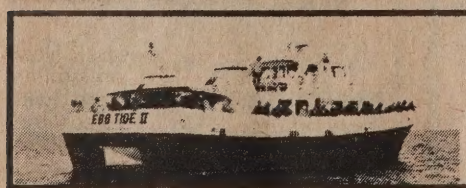
The **Atomic II** had excellent fluking in Sandy Hook Bay, between the channels and on the red side of Ambrose. Average catches have been running 8-30 fish per person, in the 2-3 lb. range. The pool fish have been about 5 lbs. everyday, with fish hitting best on sandeels.

Joe Loria at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** tells of small blues at Sandy Hook on diamond jigs. Fluke have been caught this week and weekend at Riis Park and Ambrose Channel and also at Sea Gate on sand eels and squid. Some blacks at the Marine Parkway Bridge on fiddlers and green crab. Some bass being umbrellaed and bucktailed at the Tin Can. Bluefish boats doing good on an up and down basis with nights being consistently better.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** reported that action with big bass at Cliff St. has petered out. School fish are still being taken in the area on

★CITY ISLAND★



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Six stripers from 8 to 20 lbs. taken by Sal Spurge and Charlie Taverna on Danny Swimmers at Cliff St. Fish were all taken on outgoing water. Photo courtesy of Santo's Sport Shop.

ndworms. Weakfish from 6 to 8 s. are being taken from the South each area as demonstrated by Paul usco who had 5 up to 8¾ lbs., ene Wernock who had 2 weaks in ldition to a 10 lb. blue, and Pete who checked in an 8¼ lb. weak. he fish are being taken on both ait and swimming plugs. Bluefish the 4 to 5 lb. class being taken on t bait from the Miller Field area d 2 to 5 lb. choppers being taken plugs and tin at Great Kills Park. uke being taken by casters at the orm sewers, South Beach, and the reat Kills Park jetty. Boatmen king fluke drifting anywhere from reat Kills Park to Princess Bay on quid and sandeels. Small blues eing trolled in the bay on umbrella gs and a few nice bass around for e diligent on sandworms or live unker.

A live eel duped this 30 lb. bass for Don Urbanski at the second Wantagh Bridge. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Bait and Tackle.

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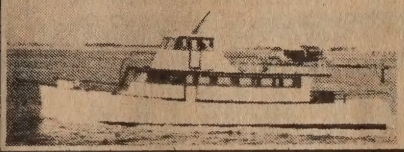

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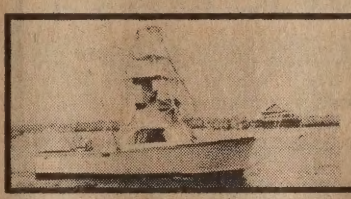

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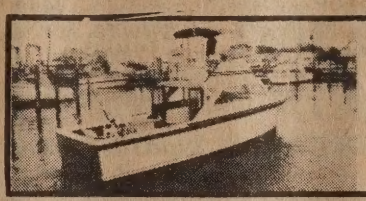

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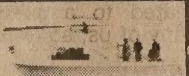
NATIONAL SCENE
(Continued from page 14.)

the law, the Councils cannot act on a timely basis. As was explained time and again at the bluefish hearings, there is nothing the Council can do about any big export fishery for bluefish that might develop this summer. Working as quickly as possible, it will be at least next summer before a management plan can be put into effect—providing there is no additional delay at the Secretarial level. The public finds it hard to understand why even the simplest plans should take so long—and it's the duty of all those involved in the planning process to give the taxpayer his money's worth by expediting each step along the way to final implementation.

Some Good News on Striped Bass

It's hard to come up with any good news on striped bass these days, but there is one positive item to report. Senator John Chafee's Bill S. 838, providing millions for striped bass research, was approved by the Senate on June 13. At that point, it had over twenty co-sponsors. Now it's up to the House to act on similar legislation. After that, there will have to be a conference between the houses to compromise differences in the bills, then final passage by both House and Senate. If the President signs the bill, we'll have a fighting chance of directing enough attention to the plight of this species that some constructive action just may be taken!

MICKEY MOUSE



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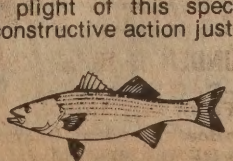

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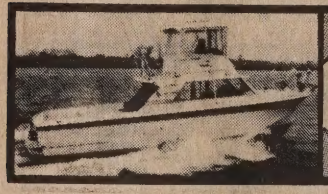

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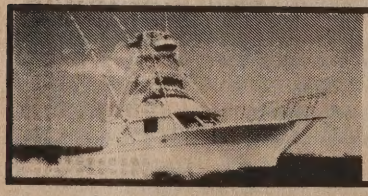

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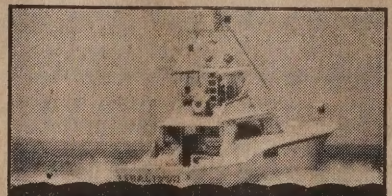

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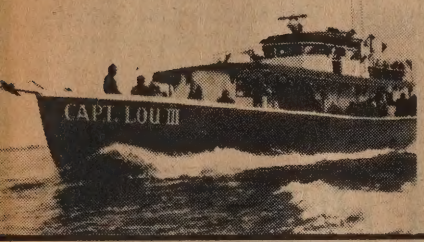

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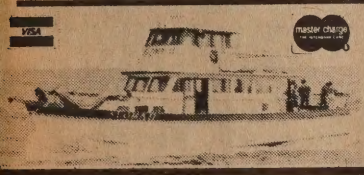

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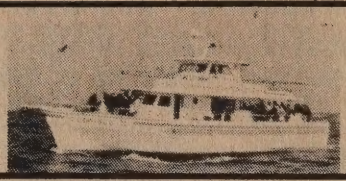

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PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

GREENPORT

Art White of **A. P. White Bait Shop** reports that the **Brand X** has been enjoying very good porgy action at the Dumping Grounds and also on the east side of Gardiners Island. The fish are being taken on both clams and worms. Weakfish are being taken on Diamond jigs off of Greenhills on Gardiners and also on the north side of Plum Island. Small weakfish are being taken in the channel off of the Greenport Jetty on squid and sandworms. Blackfishing has been fair to good along the Sound Beaches for those using fiddler crab bait. A few bass being picked at the Sluiceway on bucktails and live bait.

SOUTHOLD

Ace of **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports excellent porgy fishing at buoys 17 and 18 and also off of the Brickyard. Squid and sandworms are taking weakfish at the Brickyard also as well as at the Monastery. The weakfish are now running anywhere from 1½ to 4 lbs. Plenty of bluefish still in the Jessups area on both umbrella rigs and diamond jigs. These fish go up to 5 or 6 lbs. On Saturday one customer returned with 4 fluke up to 6 lbs. taken off of Truman Beach on squid and sandeel combos. Porgies up to 3 lbs. and some blackfish being taken at Mulford Point out in the Sound.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reported an unbelievealbe catch made by Joe Hoggard, Charlie Coats and Red Mack. The trio returned to the station by 1:30 p.m. with over 300 porgies up to 2¼ lbs. and 62 weakfish. All of the fish were taken on sandworms and skimmer clams at the Rose Grove. Some blackfish up to 2½ lbs. and very good porgy action at Buoy 25 in South Race.

NOYAC

Helen of **Noyac Mairna** reported that on Sunday afternoon Greg and Mike Gaudiosi, their grandfather Peter Marrone, and Bill Fales fished the east side of Jessups and returned with 70 weakfish from 2 to 4 lbs. all taken on squid. Helen reported that while most of the fish are of the smaller variety there are still enoguh 6 and 7 pounders mixed in to keep things interesting. Porgies being taken at Buoys 16 and 17 on clams and worms and weakfish and bluefish being jigged evenings at Jessups.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Bait & Tackle told us that fluke are beginning to establish themselves off of Mattituck and are taking squid and sandeel combos. Weakfish in the 2 to 3 lb. range are being taken on whole drifted sandworms at Nassau Point. Porgies here also. Out in the Sound porgies taking clams and sandworms and running up to 2 lbs. are being taken with an occasaional blackfish and sea bass mixed in. Warren relayed word that bass are being taken in the Sluiceway on live baits such as mackerel, eels, bunker, and butterfish.

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ MIXED BAG

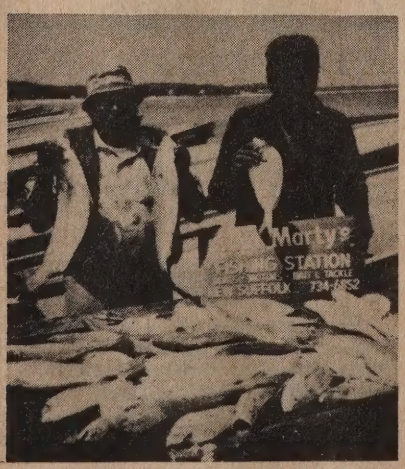
MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reported that some steady fluke action has been going on just outside the mouth of Mt. Sinai Harbor. Many of the fish run 4 to 7 lbs. with squid and sandeels turning the trick. Porgies up to 2½ lbs. are being taken at Buoy 9 on clams and worms.

PORT JEFFERSON

John of **Caraftis Fishing Station** reported fabulous porgy fishing off of Old Field Point for humpbacks going up to 2½ lbs. This is all on worms or skimmers. Weakfish still being taken at Buoy 11 in the early morning hours on Tri-Fin sandeel jigs. Blues in the 3 to 5 lbs. class on umbrella rigs and dimaond jigs in the early morning and at dusk. Still some blackfish at Old Field Point for those using fiddler crabs.

Al at **Tackle Shack Sportsmen's Center** called to report blues in good number in the Sound at buoy 11 area. Al himself jigged 15 up to 8 lbs. on his new Sicilian rig. The bluefishing hasn't been bad for the North Shore surfcasters either. Spoons and surface plugs seem to be doing best. Porgies are making a good day's fishing for many people using skimmers, sand worms or squid. Al found porgies in the bluefish's bellies while gutting them. On the South Shore fluking has been fair at the Elbow in Moriches Bay with sand eels and squid combos working best. Blue claw crabs still coming on strong on the South Shore with the Patchogue Pier being the hotspot.



This fine catch of 35 weaks and 30 porgies was made by Jim Hawkins and Fred Johnson on the east side of Nassau Point. The catch was made on worms, squid and skimmer clams. The pair left from Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

Sharon Blasberg hefts her husband Mitch's 33 lb. linesider. The striper fell for a live bunker fished at night in F.I. Inlet. Subscriber photo.

NORTHPORT

Tom of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported that after a low in the weakfish action fishing has picked up again. Tom thought that most of the action is now concentrated at Buoy 13 off of Eaton's Neck. Seven to eight pound yellowfins are being taken on trolled umbrellas and also on Cast Rebels and eel worms. Beach casters have been picking away at bass in the 20 lb. class at Ashroken and Eaton's Neck on both 7'' Rebels and Tri-Fin eel worms. This is night and early morning fishing. Lots of blues up to 4 lbs. being taken casting tins and plugs around the Lilco plant. Porgies up to 2½ lbs. out in 50' of water on clams, worms, and squid. Tom added that a chum pot full of clams is a definite asset to a decent catch. Blackfish still around the local rock piles on fiddler crabs.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** reported bluefish in the 2 to 5 lb. class being taken at Buoy 13, Eaton's Neck, and Buoy 15 off of Diamond Point on umbrellas fished deep with wire. Weakfish in the 6 to 10 lb. class are mixed in with the blues. Some nice weakfish are being taken on drifted sandworms at Eaton's Neck and Marshall Field after dark.

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Bait & Tackle** reported that anglers drifting whole sandworms after dark in Cold Spring Harbor have been making some decent catches of weakfish. Tri-Fin eel worms, jelly worms, and Tri-Fin sandeel rigs are still producing some nice tiderunners in the early morning hours at Diamond Point. Ray Nigro trolled 17 weakfish up to 11 lbs. and 2 bluefish on wire and umbrellas off of Eaton's Neck over the weekend. Some fluke being picked at Eaton's Neck on squid and sandeels. John Munno, Jr. had 3 school bass on trolled sandworms at the Causeway last Thursday night. Plenty of bluefish at the Lilco plant in the early morning and evening hours. These small bluefish can be taken on poppers but are hitting just about anything thrown at them.

Captain Don of the **Ever Ready** asks that you check out his new program of sailing schedules starting in this week's issue of L.I.F. which should fill the bill for you North Shore party boaters.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ BLACKFISH

COLD SPRING Hbr.

Mark at **Salty's Bait & Tackle** reported bluefish in the 3 to 4 lb. class being taken on red umbrellas fished deep with wire at Buoy 15. Weakfish are mixed with the blues in the early a.m. Blackfish at Center Island Reef and Morris Rock on fiddler crab bait. Casters have been taking bass up to 18 lbs. at the Causeway and Whitewood Point on small, jointed, blackback Rebels. Trollers take school fish on Cape Cod spinners and worms at Marshall Field. The bass action has all been on outgoing water.

GLEN COVE

Captain Joe on the **Lady Lil II** tells of good flounder fishing over the weekend on worms and clam, high hook each day in the twenties, fish up to 2¼ lbs. Porgies are improving daily on clam and worm baits and most fares are bagging several each trip. Blacks and sea bass are also being caught. Tuesday fishing off Connecticut they met a school of mackerel and fares filled up. Joe

★ NORTH SHORE ★

GLEN COVE

GLEN COVE

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BLUES $6 NITES—6:15PM to 10:15PM TUES., WED., THURS., FRI., SAT.

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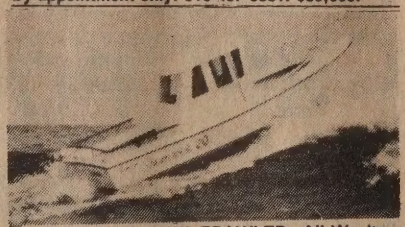

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OBTAIN YOUR U.S. COAST GUARD LICENSE TO CARRY PASSENGERS FOR HIRE. Personalized instructions. Continuous classes. For information, call Capt. Dan Masterson of Lindenhurst, 516-226-5664.

FISH GIANT TUNA, PRINCE EDWARD ISL., NORTH LAKE—Labor Day weekend August 30-September 3, 1979. Four nights, 3 days fishing. Limited number of reservations available for groups of 3. Three fishermen to 40' boat; motel, rental car. Complete trip, including breakfast and dinner daily and air fare per person—$525. Call Joe Narvaez, evenings. 515-798-5648.

BOAT INSURANCE—All Risk. Twelve month navigation with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Wide category of boats will be accepted. PAUL KRAUSE, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, NY. 11795. 516-669-4600.

BOAT INSURANCE—Broad form and All-Risk coverages. Competitive rates. Hull, machinery, and liability. Private, charter, and open boats. Budget plans available. JOHN ECKER, INC., Box KK, S. Euclid Ave., Montauk, N.Y. 11954, 516-668-3030.

FLOUNDER/FLUKE BELT BUCKLE. Life-like 3-dimensional heavy metal buckle in beautiful antique brass finish. You've never seen anything like it! So realistic, you'll want to fillet it. Send $6.50 + $.50 postage & handling to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpk., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

CAPTAIN'S COURSE
Over 5,000 licensed through MTS—Become a LICENSED CAPTAIN. Motorboat & Ocean Operator. Prep course for USCG exam. Experienced instructors—application preparation and evaluation. Classes in Riverhead, Holtsville area (S.W. Long Island), Port Jefferson and Freeport. For info and registration, call toll free 1-800-535-8803. MARITIME TRAINING SERVICES.

TRANSPORTING YOUR BOAT LOCAL OR LONG DISTANCE? Call BILL & BILL BOAT TRANSPORT, LTD. Reliable, insured carriers at 516-277-3440. "The safety of your boat is our main concern!"

FILLET KNIFE—the same as used by professional fishermen coast-to-coast. Razor sharp, high carbon super-stainless steel 7" flexible blade. Can't rust; easily cleaned, resharpened. Non-slip molded handle with enlarged finger guard. Handle's "Grip-Tex" surface is more slip resistant than anything yet devised. $7.95 postpaid; with sheath $9.95. Dealer inquiries invited. JANDY PRODUCTS, 7 Boxwood Road, Norwalk, Conn. 06851.

Fantastic Shakespeare Combo—5' 10" #SP1100 Ugly Stik, all ceramic guides; and Shakespeare #5910 skirted spool spinning reel. Brand new; still in original factory wrappings. - $75. 516-223-6135 or 516-868-2391. After 6PM.

Now booking reservations for the SUNSHINE! 25' CARVAR FOR CHARTER. Clean, comfortable, total accom. Hot food - shower - latest in fishfinding and navigational gear. CALL CAPT. PAUL 516-488-5507.

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Have worked for the best; 12 yrs. exp. I come to you. All inboard and I/O's. ALL inboard systems. 516-794-6364. Bruce South.

FISHING TACKLE

PORGY KILLER RIGS. The 3-hook meat fisherman's rig that makes the porgies wake up in a cold sweat. Mustad gold beaks and 40# snells and leaders. All hand tied. Finest kind. $4 for 3 rigs. Send to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

FLY & BASS FISHERMEN—Selling: 4 glass fly rod - 3 Medalist reels - 1 #577 Supreme reel. Bait casting reels: 3 Ambassadeurs; 1 Lew's; 3 Pflueger. B/C Rods: 7 glass and graphite - 2 U/L spinning reels. New and used. Super prices. 201-261-5732 After 5PM

Squid Tins for Sale. Top quality fishing lures for bass, blues, and weakfish. All lures are metal and chrome-plated. Lures are great for the surfcaster. Call 9AM to 6PM. 516-796-6304.

FLUKE KILLER RIGS!! The ULTIMATE in fluke killer rigs. Deadly double hook design. Long time secret of the "Pros." You will hook more and lose fewer fluke, since fish can't avoid the full adjustable tail hook. Each rig is hand tied; finest materials used. Pays for itself in fluke dinners. Three completely tied rigs only $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

EVERYTHING for the saltwater fisherman. Quality tackle at lowest prices. Free catalog. SALT WATER TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG, Falmouth, Mass. 02541.

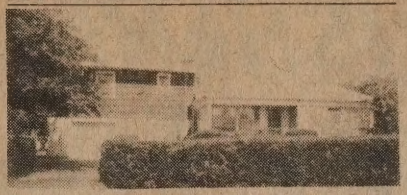
DROPPERS: Hand tied, rigged 4/0 stainless Mustad hooks, 4" saddle hackle. Colors: red, yellow, white, yellow/white. $1.00 each. LEE CONNER, 89-51 237th St., Bellrose, NY 11426.

REAL ESTATE

SPECTACULAR CUSTOM HOME on deep, wide waterway. Four bedrooms, 3 baths; huge deck; custom kitchen; stone fireplace. In lovely Baldwin Harbor. $79,900. JOYCE BAYER, WATERFRONT SPECIALIST 516-378-1175.

FISHING STATION & BOAT YARD BUSINESS FOR SALE: $25,000. 2/3 Down. Options. Call: 516-363-6024 after 6:30 p.m.

DEER RUN ESTATES, Southern Catskill Mountains; 2½ hour drive from L.I. Excellent hunting, fishing, skiing area. Preparing for gravel roads, electric. (3-4-5) Wooded acre parcels, $3500 Per Acre, (15) year terms. For brochure, phone DEER RUN ESTATES 516-666-6171.



Charming Fieldstone WATERFRONT—80 x 100; 3-4 bedrooms; 2 baths. Den, dock. Close to Baldwin Bay. Excellent boating and fishing area. A steal at $61,000. Don't Delay!! JOYCE BAYER, WATERFRONT SPECIALIST. 516-378-1175.

MASTIC ACRES WATERFRONT Property, between Moriches and Smith Pt. Bridge. Paradise for the fisherman! Also Mastic Beach—4 lots one block from water and private beach. 212-548-2950. 212-259-3083.

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★(516) 665-5461★

Consistently Advertised
Consistently Bought
Say you saw it in the FISHERMAN

even caught 200 himself. Bottom action is mostly at buoy 17, and the Center Island reef with slack tide being best. Joe says it would be a good idea to fish close to home and save gas on the beautiful North Shore.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle reported some good blackfish scores being made at the old CBS tower, Harts Island, and Execution Light on fiddler crabs. School bass still being taken by worm trollers at Harts Island. Nelson Falcon weighed in a 9¼ lbs. striper over the weekend.

Ebb Tide II called to report good flounder and blackfishing, along with tommy cod all hitting sand worms this weekend on the Ct. shore.

This whopping 56 lb. striper fell for a live 2½ lb. mackerel at Prospect Point. Lucky anglers were Justino Garcia and his son Augie. Photo courtesy of Jack's Bait and Tackle.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

SPORTFISHING WORLD SERIES

In order to participate in L.I.F.'s **Sportfishing World Series** you do not have to fill out any entry forms, just be a L.I.F. subscriber. On the date of each inning, just try to catch the targeted species. You can fish anywhere around Long Island, using any sportfishing technique from either the surf, pier, boat, etc. At the end of the day all you are required to do is take your largest fish of the species being fished that inning and have it weighed in at any of the **L.I.F. Official Weigh-Stations** located all over the Island. (Rules for the "Offshore" and "Rodeo" innings will be printed in a future issue of L.I.F.) Naturally, the fish must be weighed in on the day that the inning is being held. To prevent too many fish from being needlessly weighed in, all fish must meet the same minimum acceptance weights established for L.I.F.'s **Skillful Angling Award** program, which are also shown in the table. So even if your fish does not score any points in the Sportfishing World Series, you will still receive an embroidered patch and certificate stating that you have won an L.I.F. Skillful Angling Award.

There are **thirty-five L.I.F. Official Weigh-Stations,** all of which have a certified scale. (If you own a fishing establishment and wish to become an L.I.F. Official Weigh-Station, call Sue at (516) 725-4200.) Their names and locations are:

South Bay Fishing Station
The Foot of Clyde St. off Atlantic
West Sayville, NY 11782

Port of Egypt Fishing Station
Main Road
Southold, NY 11971

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station
Town Dock
Seaford, NY 11783

Skidmore's Fishing Station
Shore Road
East Moriches, NY 11940

Speck's Bait & Tackle
1783 North Highway
Southampton, NY 11968

Bait & Tackle Unlimited
4 Wilson Avenue
Amityville, NY 11701

Mae's Way Marina
798 Old Dock Road
Kings Park, NY 11754

Rocky Point Fishing Stop
Broadway
Rocky Point, NY 11778

Beckman's Tackle
803 Sunrise Highway
Lynbrook, NY 11563

Lon Wanser Bait & Tackle
3818 Merrick Road
Seaford, N.Y. 11783

E. Moriches Bait & Tackle
Montauk Highway
East Moriches, NY 11940

Buoy II Sport Shop
31 W. Main St.
East Islip, NY 11730

Charlie's Fisherman's Haven
516 Route 25A
Mt. Sinai, NY 11766

Four Winds Bait & Tackle
1457 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Santo's Sport Shop
1493 Hylan Blvd.
Staten Island, NY 10305

Bowman's Sporting Goods
50 Main Street
Northport, NY 11768

Ed's Fishing Station
143 Bayside Dr.
Pt. Lookout, NY 11569

Shore Isle Marina
2920 Island Channel Rd.
Seaford, NY 11783

Warren's Tackle Center
Main Road
Aquebogue, NY 11931

Noyac Marina
Pine Neck Ave., Noyac
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

Ralph's Fishing Station
250 Harbor Beach Rd.
Mt. Sinai, NY 11766

Arthur Street Marina
635 Arthur Street
Baldwin, NY 11510

Merrick Marine Supplies
2370 Merrick Road
Bellmore, NY 11710

T & G Bait and Tackle
164-50 Cross Bay Blvd.
Howard Beach, NY 11414

The Sutler B&T
105 W. Broadway
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Shelter Cove Marina
604-10 Clarence Ave.
Bronx, NY 10465

Salty's Bait & Tackle
324 Jackson Ave.
Syosset, NY 11791

Star Island Yacht Club
Montauk, NY 11954

Cove Marina
West Lake Drive
Montauk, NY 11954

Charvin Fishing Station
447 Woodcleft Ave.
Freeport, NY 11520

Mark's Bait & Tackle
154 Atlantic Ave.
Freeport, NY 11520

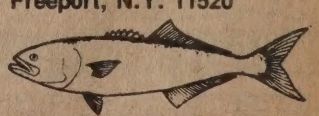
Blue Fin Fleet
27-10 200th Street
Bayside, NY 11360

Mill Basin Deli
East 59th St. & Ave. T
Mill Basin, NY 11234

J & F Tackle
101 North New Dorp Plaza
Staten Island, NY 10306

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle
214 Depot Road
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Hook, Line & Sinker
102 Woodcleft Ave.
Freeport, N.Y. 11520



INNING No.	DATE	SPECIES	MINIMUM WT.
Inning No. 1	April 14th	CODFISH	25-pounds
Inning No. 2	May 5th	FLOUNDER	2-pounds
Inning No. 3	May 26th	WEAKFISH	7-pounds
Inning No. 4	June 16th	STRIPED BASS	25-pounds
Inning No. 5	July 7th	FLUKE	6-pounds
Inning No. 6	July 28th	BLUEFISH	10-pounds
Inning No. 7	August 18th	OFFSHORE	None
Inning No. 8	September 15th	RODEO	None
Inning No. 9	October 6th	BLACKFISH	6-pounds

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	4:21	5:06	5:18	5:53	4:54	5:39	6:16	6:40	7:41	8:02	7:56	8:21	4:36	5:07	7/5
FRI.	5:24	5:58	6:14	6:43	6:02	6:31	7:07	7:26	8:39	8:57	8:51	9:12	5:31	5:55	7/6
SAT.	6:23	6:50	7:04	7:32	7:00	7:22	7:55	8:12	9:37	9:51	9:45	10:03	6:21	6:45	7/7
SUN.	7:14	7:40	7:55	8:21	7:51	8:09	8:44	8:58	10:30	10:43	10:36	10:52	7:11	7:33	7/8
MON.	8:06	8:27	8:46	9:09	8:41	8:58	9:35	9:48	11:24	11:34	11:26	11:43	8:02	8:22	7/9
TUE.	8:54	9:16	9:37	9:59	9:32	9:49	10:23	10:37	—	12:14	—	12:17	8:50	9:12	7/10
WED.	9:46	10:07	10:27	10:48	10:27	10:42	11:15	11:30	12:26	1:07	12:33	1:08	9:41	10:02	7/11
THUR.	10:39	11:00	11:20	11:41	11:26	11:40	—	12:08	1:19	1:59	1:25	1:59	10:32	10:54	7/12

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

7/5	5:30	8:39
7/10	5:33	8:37
7/15	5:37	8:34
7/20	5:41	8:31
7/25	5:46	8:26
7/30	5:51	8:22

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/24	7/2	7/9	7/16

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	1:15	**7:45**	1:40	**8:10**
Fri.	1:55	**8:35**	2:25	**9:00**
Sat.	2:45	**9:25**	3:15	**9:50**
Sun.	3:35	**10:15**	4:05	**10:45**
Mon.	4:25	**11:35**	5:00	**11:45**
Tues.	5:45	—	6:00	**12:15**
Wed.	6:25	**12:45**	7:00	**1:30**
Thurs.	7:35	**1:55**	8:05	**2:25**

TOUGH NEW STREN®, TWICE AS TOUGH AS THE NEXT BEST FISHING LINE

In lab tests for durability, hundreds of results proved new Stren® twice as tough as other leading lines.

And in the scuffs and scrapes of actual fishing, fishermen like Capt. Dick Rode, Marathon, Fla., are reporting fish-saving toughness:

"We've tried just about every line available, and new Stren beats them all."

Prove it to yourself.

After a hard day's fishing, compare the smoothness of new Stren to any other line you've used.

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